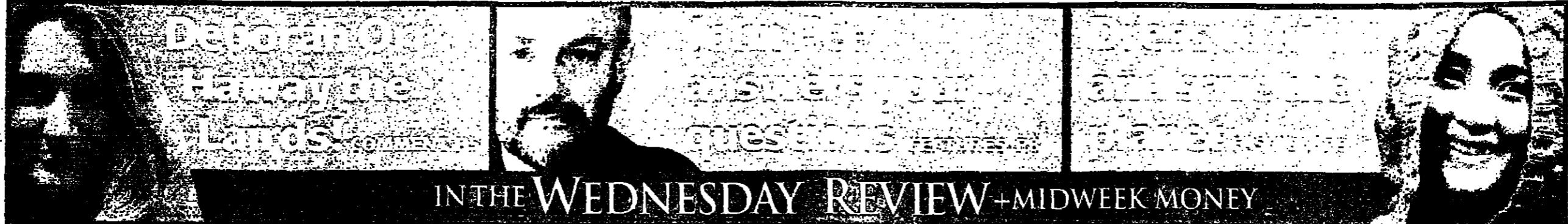




No 3,812

WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 1999

(150p) 45p



Heal rifts or lose election, Labour warns ministers

LABOUR HAS admitted that it will lose the next General Election unless the Cabinet ends the divisions which have provoked Tony Blair's biggest crisis since he won power. The warning is contained in an internal memo from senior party officials to staff at Labour's Millbank headquarters in London, outlining the party's strategy for winning a second term.

"In an information age of fast, swift communications,

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

modern political parties cannot continue to survive in government if they are disunited or carry major weaknesses," says the memo, which has been passed to *The Independent*.

Officials at Millbank said there was strong pressure from grassroots party members for an end to the feuding between allies of Mr Blair and Gordon

Brown, which has been blamed for the resignations of Peter Mandelson, Geoffrey Robinson, and Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press secretary.

One Labour source said: "I am sure the entire Cabinet has got the message now. We now have an opportunity to move forward and concentrate on delivering our promises."

Labour's private opinion polling shows the Tories are still seen as more divided than

Labour One reason for this is that Mr Blair is seen as a much stronger leader than William Hague. However, Labour officials are alarmed by a sharp increase since last summer in the number of voters who regard the Government as "sleazy" and "arrogant" – a trend they expect to continue since the revelation of Mr Mandelson's £373,000 personal loan from Mr Robinson.

One in three people now

believes Labour is "getting sleazy", while half the public thinks the Government is "getting too arrogant and out of touch". A majority still think Labour "can be trusted," although the figure has dropped since last July.

Mr Blair, who begins a three-day visit to South Africa today following his family holiday in the Seychelles, hopes to turn the tide by getting "back to business" and switching the focus

to the Government's plans to improve public services.

But he faced further controversy yesterday as friends of Mr Whelan revealed that he planned to write a book exposing the deep divisions at the heart of the Government.

Pressure mounted on Mr Whelan to leave his Treasury post immediately rather than wait until he finds another job. He hopes to stay for a few weeks but Downing Street

wants him to quit within days.

David Heathcoat-Amory, the Tory treasury spokesman, said: "Mr Whelan seems to be timing his departure to suit his own job prospects ... He should be dismissed immediately and given no more privileged access to Budget planning."

Lord Falconer visit the Dome, page 2; Whelan book talk, page 2; Anne McElvoy, Review, page 3 Ken Livingstone, Review, page 4



Cuts by Brown add to crisis in NHS

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN is planning to put further pressure on the NHS, struggling to cope with an influenza outbreak, by demanding cuts to cover an inflation-busting pay rise for doctors and nurses.

It is feared this could exacerbate the crisis in the NHS caused by staffing shortages and the flu outbreak, which has left many hospitals overstretched. The issue surfaced because the pay-review bodies for 1 million public-sector workers are expected to report within the month to Tony Blair, and ministers are braced for recommended pay rises of over 5 per cent for nurses and doctors.

Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, has told colleagues he wants to pay the nurses in full, without staging, to ease the shortage of staff. The shortages are so severe that a hospital in North Tyneside has hired a doctor from Australia and nurses from the Philippines are being recruited in London.

Mr Brown has warned the Cabinet to keep pay rises in line

- How a catalogue of problems has hit the NHS page 5
- Hospital hires lorry as mortuary page 5
- Crisis at St James' page 5
- Leading article Review, page 3



Patients waiting for treatment at St James's hospital in Leeds, one of the cities worst hit by the flu outbreak with an increase in hospital admissions 26 per cent higher than this time last year

Simon Ryder/Guzelian

with the Treasury's 2.5-per-cent inflation target. Yesterday ministerial sources told *The Independent* that although the pay rises could be approved by the Cabinet, they are likely to be "under-funded", leaving health authorities to meet some of the extra pay bill from their own resources, further squeezing the cash for patient care.

The problem facing the Chancellor threatens to add to pressure on hospitals where there is evidence of patients being left on trolleys as doctors try to deal with bed and staff shortages. The British Medical

Association, which has been gathering evidence to present to ministers, has had reports of district nurses being moved out of family doctor surgeries to plug the gaps in hospitals, leaving GPs furious at the loss of their nursing staff.

It's pretty awful. There is not an epidemic as such but the way that things have been managed on the ground is pretty poor. Staff are being removed from general practice to work in hospitals with scant consultation. The Midlands and Liverpool have been hit pretty badly by the flu, but it is not clas-

sified as an epidemic and we have been getting complaints about the way it has been handled. It was hardly unexpected, but we are getting some pretty awful tales," said a BMA source.

A big increase in pay for nurses and doctors is regarded by ministers as vital to ease staff shortages. Mr Dobson set a target of training an extra 6,000 nurses over the next three years when he announced an additional £2bn for the health service over the same period. He privately fears the crisis means he may

fail to meet his pledge. In March, that waiting lists "will be shorter" by next April, in spite of priority given to slashing numbers waiting, including "bed blocking" by getting the elderly out of hospital with community support.

Because of the flu outbreak more than 45,000 people had to cancel Christmas plans and take to their beds. Experts said numbers might continue to rise over the next few weeks. Emergency services in the North West are bearing the brunt of the crisis, which has

seen 999 calls double in some of the worst-hit areas. Yorkshire hospitals were reported to be close to breaking-point only two months after they received £21m to ease winter pressure, prompting calls from MPs to find out how the money had been spent.

As the outbreak spread south, Mr Dobson gave details of how the £250m allocated before Christmas was to be spent on 2,000 initiatives. They include £750,000 extra for improving intensive care and high dependency care in London.

Iraq and US in dogfight over no-fly zone

AMERICAN AIRCRAFT fired missiles at Iraqi planes in two incidents yesterday – the first aerial clashes between the two sides in six years.

The incidents, which occurred south-west of Baghdad at about 7.30am GMT, follow two attacks by US aircraft on Iraqi missile batteries, after surface-to-air missiles were launched at them, and is part of a pattern of rapidly escalating military

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

tension. Weeks after the US and British air campaign against Iraqi military targets, Baghdad is intent on showing it is capable of challenging the allied forces in the air.

In yesterday's incidents, US aircraft were patrolling the no-fly zone over southern Iraq when they detected about a

dozen airborne Iraqi Mirages and MiG fighters. They fired missiles at them, but were not sure whether any hit their targets. One Iraqi fighter was seen to crash, but it was thought it had run out of fuel. All the American planes returned safely to base.

Iraqi missiles have been fired at allied aircraft in the northern and southern no-fly zones in the past two weeks.

triggering attacks by American aircraft. Iraq has said since 1996 that it considers the no-fly zones illegitimate, but has started to assert itself over them in the past month.

This growing tension is unnerving states in the region, particularly Saudi Arabia and Turkey, as US fighters are based to patrol the zones. It also shows that despite intensive air strikes, the US and Britain did

not eliminate Iraq's ability to hit back at British and American forces. It is the first time that US aircraft have fought their Iraqi counterparts since a US fighter shot down an Iraqi aircraft in 1992.

Underlining Baghdad's defiance, Saddam Hussein yesterday called on Arabs to overthrow regimes aligned with the US. "Revolt against those who boast of friendship with the United

States," he said in a speech to mark the anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi army. "Revolt against foreign powers, their aggression and their armies and chase them. Kick out injustice and its perpetrators."

According to the US, Iraq has clamped down hard on internal opposition in recent weeks, executing hundreds of Shia Muslims from the south and holding thousands hostage.

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"I find it is a pleasure to be able to wake up any time and look at my alarm clock and be able to see it, without hunting for my glasses."

Patient Heather Kirby,
VDU operator, Wiltshire.

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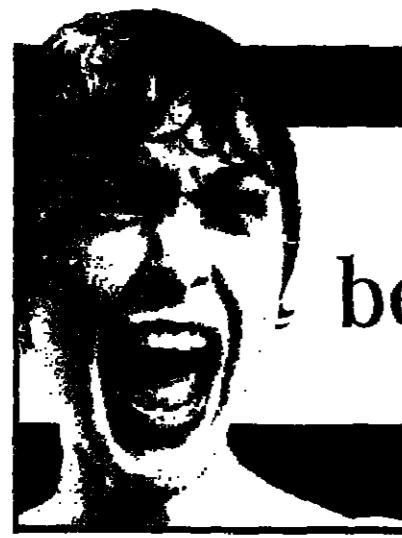
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Doctors cleared over boy's death

BY SARAH WILSON

TWO DOCTORS from Great Ormond Street hospital were cleared yesterday of the manslaughter of a 12-year-old cancer patient who had a chemotherapy drug wrongly injected into his spine.

Charges against John Lee, 34, a specialist registrar in paediatric anaesthetics, and Dermot Murphy, 34, a registrar in haematology, were dropped after it was revealed that the boy's death was caused by a "chapter of accidents and misunderstandings" at the London hospital rather than gross negligence on the doctors' part.

The doctors were charged with manslaughter over the death of Richie William, who was receiving chemotherapy at Great Ormond Street in July 1997 for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. But yesterday they left the dock at the Old Bailey after a prosecution witness changed his testimony.

Professor Alan Aitkenhead initially believed Dr Lee's conduct over the injection had fallen "seriously and significantly below that which could be demanded of him". But when he learnt of important failures in the system operated by the hospital, he changed his mind and the Crown Prosecution Service was advised by senior lawyers to drop the case.

Richie died five days after Dr Lee injected the drug vincristine into his spine instead of into a vein. Subsequent investigations revealed that the drug should never have been sent to the operating theatre where the injection was administered. To avoid such an accident,

Richie's mother, Dolores William, said in a statement: "The medical profession should be accountable for their actions like everyone else. We are still devastated by the way Richie died. He suffered a great deal of pain in the days before his death because of the negligent treatment he received."

Great Ormond Street's chief executive, Robert Creighton, said the hospital had accepted responsibility for the boy's death and was responding to a civil claim from the family.

Dr Lee and Dr Murphy have been suspended from clinical practice in the NHS.



Lord Falconer on his first visit to the £758m Dome project: 'I hope I'm well suited for the job, but only time will tell'

Michael Stephens

I'm impressed, says Dome minister

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A 45-MINUTE tour of the Millennium Dome was all it took for Lord Falconer to be impressed by the size and scale of the Millennium Dome, he continued.

"It's very, very impressive," said Lord Falconer of Thoroton, newly appointed minister for the Dome after the departure of Peter Mandelson.

Practically dressed in a hard hat and Wellington boots, Lord Falconer was as reflective as the workman's jacket he decided to wear as he toured the site at Greenwich, south-east London. "It's impossible not to

be impressed by the size and scale of the Millennium Dome," he continued.

"It's a real tribute to all the bodies involved. I have seen now what it consists of and I've been told many details about it. It is very, very impressive and it is a project which will give genuine entertainment to all the people who come to it."

It was Lord Falconer's first visit to the £758m project, a visit he was forced to make because of Mr Mandelson's resignation

over the house loan affair. No one asked him if he would have bothered to visit it if he had not been appointed to the job - a move criticised by the Conservatives as "cronyism" because he is a close personal friend and former flatmate of Tony Blair.

But Lord Falconer insisted that, as Cabinet Office minister, his job was to get people working together.

"It's for others to judge what my qualities are," he said. "I hope I'm suited for the job, but only time will tell."

On his first day, Lord Falconer also made what may be his first gaffe in the job. Asked whether the delayed Jubilee Line extension - the Underground route expected to be used by 40 per cent of the predicted 12 million Dome visitors - would be completed by the millennium, he replied: "I very, very much hope that the extension will be completed in time. We believe it will be but I don't think there's anybody in the world who can completely guarantee it."

Lord Falconer was accom-

panied on his tour by Jennie Page, chief executive of the New Millennium Experience Company. Together they saw the foundations for the figure of The Body, a giant exhibit featuring a man and a woman in an embrace.

After his visit, Lord Falconer's thoughts turned to Mr Mandelson. "I don't think anyone can fit Peter Mandelson's boots," he said. "I could never emulate Peter in respect of the work he did for the Dome. I shall just have to do things in my own way."

Mr Whelan has decided not to seek a job in the City, but is attracted by the idea of becoming a media pundit or taking a job in football.

Mr Whelan came under pressure yesterday from both the Government and the Tories to leave his post immediately. Although Mr Whelan is in no hurry, Peter Killof, the Cabinet Office minister, said he would leave "sooner rather than later" and senior Whitehall sources expect him to depart "within days".

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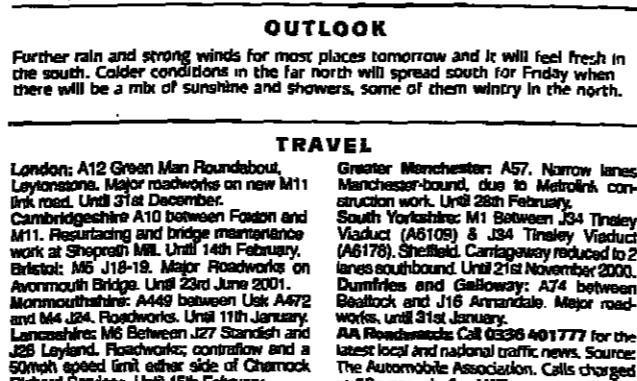
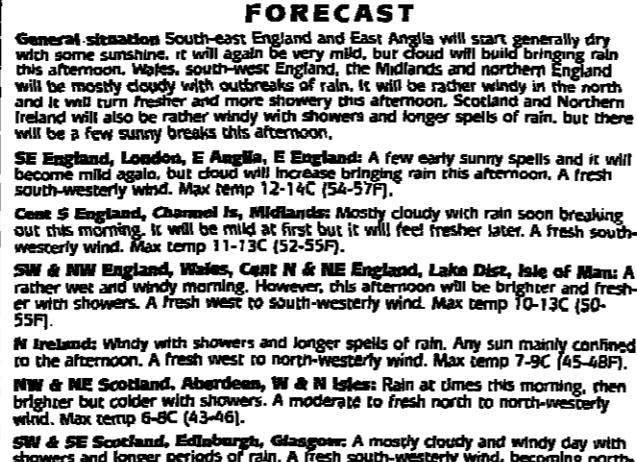
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Glasgow	4.15pm	to 8.14am
London	4.00pm	to 8.05am
Manchester	4.08pm	to 8.23am
Newcastle	4.06pm	to 8.29am

HIGH TIDES		
AM	HT	PM HT
Aberdeen	9.55	12.9
Cork	8.20	4.7
Derry	8.23	5.54
Dun Laoghaire	1.26	6.6
Falmouth	2.07	4.0
Greenock	8.01	5.1
Holyhead	12.54	5.4
Kings Lynn	9.06	8.3
Lisbon	5.21	5.4
Liverpool	1.51	2.6
London	8.57	9.7
Newquay	7.50	6.2
Plymouth	9.33	2.1
Portsmouth	1.50	4.5
Rosslare	10.40	5.8
Scarborough	6.54	5.6
Wick	1.57	3.4

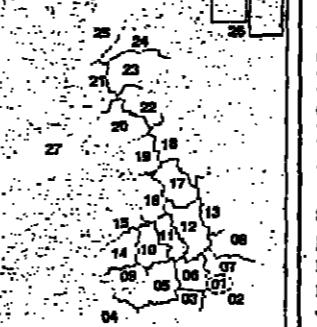
AIR QUALITY		
NO ₂	SO ₂	CO
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 08.05 Sun sets: 16.08 Moon rises: 21.30 Moon sets: 10.34 Last quarter: Jan 9th

WEATHERLINE

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EXTREMES		
Warmest: London 14C (57F)		
Coldest: (day) Anemone 4C (39F)		
Wettest: Cape Curig 1.6 hrs		
Sealevel: Canterbury 1.9 hrs		
For 24hrs to 2pm Tuesday		
Sun hrs	hrs	Max
Aberdeen	2.9	0.22
Angus	0.0	0.14
Asturias	0.0	0.02
Belfast	1.9	0.12
Birmingham	2.6	0.27
Brecon Beacons	0.0	0.23
Bristol	0	0.44
Boston	0	0.35
Cardiff	0	0.46
Croeso	1.3	0.19
Edinburgh	0.2	0.37
Exmouth	0	0.23
Fife	0	0.18
Glasgow	0	0.11
Hastings	0	0.31
Hove	0	0.18
Isle of Man	0	0.09
Isle-of-Wight	0	0.23
Jersey	0	0.23
Kelvin	0.5	0.58
Leeds	1.3	0.12
Letsch	0.3	0.41
Llanelli	0	0.11
London	0.6	0.17
Loughborough	0	0.21
Margate	0	0.04
Morecambe	0	0.14
Newcastle	0.6	0.11
Nottingham	1.3	0.16
Oxford	0.9	0.20
Ross-on-Sort	1.4	0.17
Salcombe	0	0.05
Scarborough	0.5	0.16
Southend	0	0.10
Southport	0	0.18
Stornoway	0	0.40
Swansea	0	0.39
Torquay	0	0.35
Weymouth	0	0.19
Weymouth & Portland	0	0.12

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Reporter

DE WHEELAN plans to file a book after he steps down as press secretary to Brown, the Chancellor. Whelan's move will appear in the Government's annual report to Parliament on Monday. Mr Whelan has received offers from publishers to write a book - including one worth £10,000.

has been offered enough to pay off Peter Mar's debts," said one friend of Whelan, who has strong links to the Conservative Party. "Mr Whelan argues he avoided breaking Whelan by not disclosing any secrets. However, as the rules would permit writing about him outside the House, the rules between him and Mr Mandelson dates back to the late 1990s. Tony Blair's leadership was received with the resignation of two others, Peter Mandelson and Jeffrey Robinson, announcing on Monday that he would leave the party. Mr Whelan has received offers from publishers to write a book - including one worth £10,000.

Whelan has decided to take a job in the City, offered by the head of a media publishing group in football. Whelan came unopposed yesterday from his ward and the Tories lost immediately. Mr Whelan is in no hurry to leave, the Cabinet minister said, he would prefer to remain in Whitehall, sources said, to depart "without

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

AS A PIECE of artistic altruism it seemed unprecedented. In a blaze of publicity, the advertising agency mogul Charles Saatchi sold off 130 works from his collection to raise money for young artists.

Now, however, it is looking as if the Saatchi gift for eye-catching publicity was as much to evidence Saatchi altruism.

Immediately after the sale by Christie's last month, a joint announcement by the auction house and the Saatchi Gallery said: "All proceeds of the [£1,265,360] sale will go to create bursaries for young artists at four of London's schools of art: Chelsea, Goldsmiths', the Royal College and The Slade as well as a Young Artists Sponsorship Bursary to support artists' projects and commissions."

But as more details now emerge of the financial arrangements, it seems that Mr Saatchi has found a way of redefining philanthropy to suit both recipient and giver.

While young artists will certainly be helped, the successful ones will exhibit only in the gallery owned by Charles Saatchi and their works will join the collection owned by Charles Saatchi.

The grand-sounding Young Artists' Sponsorship Bursary is thus revealed as just another way of saying that the money is going back to Saatchi to commission new works exclusively for the Saatchi Gallery, which can later be sold.

Of the £1.6m raised from the sale, only £10,000 a year will go to each of the art colleges for their bursaries. And even that will be reviewed at the end of this year.

The current edition of *Art Monthly* magazine voices criticism of the way the sale was presented. It says: "Although this seems like a grand philanthropic gesture, the Scholarship Bursaries will only amount to £10,000 per college per year, will be awarded on a regular basis and reviewed annually. The rest of the money will be used by the Saatchi

Gallery to commission new work by young artists (the so-called Sponsorship Bursary) that will be shown at the Saatchi Gallery and then join the Saatchi Collection thereby ensuring that Saatchi is able to acquire at an advantageous price some of the best work of any new crop of artists."

Andrew Wilson, assistant editor of *Art Monthly*, said yes-

terday: "There's no guarantee that the bursaries for the colleges will continue. As for the 'sponsorship bursaries' these are just another way that Charles Saatchi can get in on the bottom rung and find new artists for his collection. He buys Damien Hirst cheap, the price goes up, he sells and with the profit invests in new artists. It's quite a sensible thing to do.

But the way the sale was presented certainly fudged what was really happening."

A director of one of the art colleges which is a beneficiary of the sale, but who did not wish to be named, said: "It's like tobacco sponsorship of motor racing. Of course, there is something in it for the sponsor - in this case rather a lot - but it still helps young

artists so we are not complaining."

Graham Crowley, head of painting at the Royal College of Art, said yesterday: "It is £10,000 a year reviewable year-by-year. I think it is money put back into the art world in a most constructive way."

The official spokeswoman at the Saatchi Gallery said she was unaware of the exact fi-

nancial arrangements regarding the sale and the bursaries, and referred all inquiries to the gallery curator, Jenny Blyth. Ms Blyth did not respond to calls. After the sale in December, Charles Saatchi said in a statement: "Christie's has done a wonderful job... We are pleased to see that the art has done well as this will enable us to extend and broaden the bursaries."

Andrea Buurman

A MAN OF MANY TASTES



IT WAS Saatchi's former wife Doris who started his collection when she bought him a minimalist work by Sol de Witt in 1970. Before that his interests had been comics and records.

Together they collected Lichtensteins, Warhols, Twomblys and Johns. Later Saatchi bought artists born or working in Britain, and paid a record £2m for a Lucian Freud. But he became the father of the Britpack when he toured the student shows, buying installations by Damien Hirst and other future Turner Prize winners and exhibiting them at his gallery.

"Sensation", the exhibition which opened in 1997 at the Royal Academy, dutifully lived up to its title and was visited by 300,000 people. The exhibits were all from Saatchi.

Now Saatchi is into the "new neurotic realists", with an exhibition opening at his gallery next week. Many of these young artists are painters, unlike most of the Britpack. And their subject matter is more likely to be a grittily naturalistic tableau of a woman having her home taken away than an animal in formaldehyde.

DAVID LISTER



Damien Hirst's 'The Lovers' providing a backdrop for Ron Mueck's 'Big Baby 2'. Both works figured in last month's Saatchi sale

Bug in computer could force aircraft to fly blind

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

PLOTS MAY be given a rehearsal of the effects of the "millennium bug" a few months early. Navigation systems used by pilots, sailors and lorry and taxi drivers could be thrown into chaos at the peak of the summer travel season because of a computer hitch.

Senior civil servants have admitted that the international Global Positioning System (GPS) of 28 satellites could fail at midnight on 22 August, leaving pilots to fly blind. David Rowlands, director-general for Railways, Aviation and Shipping at the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, said automatic systems that pinpoint aircraft positions could fail.

The problem arises because early versions of computers designed to receive the signal from GPS were programmed on a 1,024-week cycle. The cycle, which began on 6 January 1980, will end at midnight on 22 August - which the receivers will either read as 7 January 1980 or an invalid date.

Mr Rowlands said that the issue "causes concern". But he pointed out that pilots and air crew were trained to fly with

out properly working navigation equipment. "Essentially what they do if the whole lot is down is fly by a combination of compass and watch, radio communication with the ground and visual identification out of the window," he told MPs on the Commons Transport Select Committee late last year.

The Civil Aviation Authority said that it believed all aircraft in service had been checked and approved. It said the failure of GPS receivers would merely involve the loss of one element of onboard navigation. A spokesman for the authority said: "All of the GPS navigation equipment used in all the world's commercial aeroplanes has been tested capable of withstanding this

August date changeover without any trouble."

He said GPS was only one tool that was available to a pilot as part of the navigation equipment. It was both inaccurate - because the military had deliberately degraded the civilian signal - and unreliable. The signal had been switched off before without warning and caused no problem.

Peter Mellor, lecturer at the Centre for Software Reliability at City University in London, said there were "sound technical reasons" for believing many GPS systems would suffer problems in August.

"Some manufacturers of GPS kit will have been aware of the rollover and designed resilient software. Others may not have been so far sighted, and some may not even be aware of the problem," he said.

Che to promote the church

BY CLARE GARNER

THE BEARD is the same and so are the fierce eyes. It is only Che Guevara's beret that has been replaced - by a crown of thorns.

The Churches Advertising Network (CAN) yesterday unveiled its campaign for Easter, which borrows the image of the Latin American Communist revolutionary and uses the slogan "Meek. Mild. As if. Discover the real Jesus. Church. April 4."

The posters were condemned as "grossly sacrilegious" by Harry Greenway, a former Tory MP who sponsors the Conservative Christian Fellowship. "I feel extremely strongly about this and those who are in any way responsible should be excommunicated," he said.

CAN is an ecumenical body that uses advertising professionals who give their services free. One such is Chas Bayfield of the agency HHCL, who

idealists. They were angry. They wanted change for the better. They died for what they believed in," he said, adding: "Jesus has the edge in that his revolution did not die."

The Rev Tom Ambrose, secretary of CAN and a vicar in the diocese of Ely, said the campaign was designed to challenge the Sunday school stereotype of Christ. He said it was an attempt to get away from the kind of nerd figure of Jesus with blonde hair and a white nightie. Jesus was a revolutionary figure... he was not ineffectual and was crucified exactly because he was revolutionary."

But there was one potential problem, he said. "There is a danger that people will see the poster and expect something radical from their local church, which might not be what they will actually get," he said. "We cannot control the product. Christianity is not a tin of beans."

Mr Bayfield said yesterday that he was proud of his creative efforts. He listed the parallels between Jesus and Che Guevara, who helped Fidel Castro to overthrow the Cuban dictatorship 40 years ago. "They were young. They were

dreamt up this campaign and the controversial 'Bad Hair Day' one two years ago which carried the caption: 'You're a virgin, you've just given birth, and now three kings have shown up. Find out the happy ending at a church near you.'

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'An element of threat is not necessarily a bad thing. I personally respond to threats.'

- Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, on his appointment



'The criticism of Ofsted is that there is a lot of polemic in your reports but that is not backed up by evidence.'

- Margaret Hodge MP, Junior Schools Minister



'The Chief Inspector has a long way to go to recapture teachers' confidence. My advice to him is to spin less and listen more.'

- Doug McAvoy, general Secretary of the NUT

Ofsted chief hits back at 'demonisers'

THE CHIEF Inspector of Schools attacked his critics yesterday, saying union leaders and academics were damaging the reputation of teachers by "demonising" inspectors.

Chris Woodhead said he wanted to silence the "tiny but vocal minority of critics" who were defending vested interests in the profession. He published a Mori poll of 1,260 primary schools showing that four out of five were happy with their inspection by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).

But an argument broke out as Mr Woodhead accused a leading headteacher of "peddling disinformation" by claiming inspectors had a secret quota for the number of failing schools.

Mr Woodhead released the Mori survey after the National Union of Teachers produced its own poll saying that fewer than one in five schools believed inspection led to an improvement in standards.

The Ofsted poll found three-quarters of schools felt feedback from inspectors provided a helpful agenda for improving standards; 82 per cent found school reports fair and accurate. The poll also found 35 per cent of schools believed the benefits of inspection outweighed detrimental effects although 27 per cent thought the opposite. Mr Woodhead said her comments were "dangerous and mischievous nonsense".

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, said: "Chris Woodhead is proud that 80 per cent of those who responded judged the inspections 'satisfactory' but when exactly the same percentage of schools and lessons were found 'satisfactory' by Ofsted, the result was a devastating criticism by Mr Woodhead of the overall performance of the system and of teachers."

He dismissed the NUT survey as "seriously flawed", saying: "The vast majority of headteachers believe their inspections to be rigorous and professional and contribute to school improvement. The

stress the negative and it does not help to raise standards."

In February, Mr Woodhead accused three professors of education of being "at the heart of darkness" over failing pupil performance. They said he had misrepresented their views. He also attacked academics for wasting £6m a year on research of "dubious quality and value".

In March, Peter Mortimore, of London University's Institute of Education, summoned a meeting of academics who demanded a review of teacher training inspections.

The National Association of Head Teachers told the select committee one-quarter of heads said staff had been awarded grades during inspections for lessons they had not taught.

Yesterday, Mr Woodhead attacked Liz Paver, past president of the National Association of Head Teachers, who said inspectors set out to fail 2 per cent of schools. She said: "In its first year of inspecting secondary schools, Ofsted had to invent a new category of 'nearly failing' schools, because it couldn't come up with enough that were failing." Mr Woodhead said her comments were "dangerous and mischievous nonsense".

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, said: "Chris Woodhead is proud that 80 per cent of those who responded judged the inspections 'satisfactory' but when exactly the same percentage of schools and lessons were found 'satisfactory' by Ofsted, the result was a devastating criticism by Mr Woodhead of the overall performance of the system and of teachers."

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Flu exposes chronic staff shortages

THE PRESSURE exerted on the NHS by the flu outbreak is being caused by problems dating back years, health managers said yesterday.

The real crisis is a staff shortage, caused by an erosion in pay and compounded by fewer beds. Sydney and Peking flu have only served to bring the crisis to the public's attention.

Britain is far from a flu epidemic. Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, representing health authorities and trusts, said they faced the problem of flu most years.

The unique factor now was

BY LOUISE JURY
AND DARIUS SANAI

the staff shortage. There is an estimated 8,000 shortfall of nurses, and a lack of paramedics, physiotherapists and speech therapists. "I can't remember a time in the last few years when it has been so difficult right across the country. That is the special ingredient," he said. "The Government has given us extra money, but in some parts of the country we can't spend it. We just can't recruit the staff."

Kingston Hospital, in Kingston upon Thames, is one

of many to have looked abroad. The first of nearly 50 nurses from the Philippines started there this week.

Britain is not producing enough nurses: last year the number of trainee places exceeded applicants. And there is a difficulty dating from the early 1990s, when the number of training places was halved in a recession.

A spokesman for Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital said: "Staff have been working double shifts, 16 hours at a time throughout the Christmas and New Year period." Many nurses have left the

profession because they can earn more elsewhere. "Nurses tell us that fair pay is the number-one factor which would encourage them to stay in nursing," said Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing.

Bed occupancy rates were another factor in the crisis. Mr Thornton said: "Hospitals have been working increasingly to full capacity all year round. There is nothing more inefficient than an empty bed, and occupancy rates are running at 90 per cent plus. But then you don't need very much of an increase in demand to create

real problems." Philip Monk, a public-health consultant in Leicestershire health authority, said there was a "very high level of consultation on influenza-like illnesses". Some really were flu; others were respiratory syncytial virus, which, for example, may make asthma worse and cause temperatures

A third factor was the peak of the regular four-yearly cycle in the incidence of mycoplasma, a bug that causes chest infections. "A lot of people are very acutely ill," he said.

"There are a phenomenal number of people calling for the GP which means GPs are tak-

ing longer to get to them and people are going down to hospital, which isn't helping the situation. People are trying to find a short cut ... when there are no short cuts to be had."

Douglas Fleming, of the Royal College of General Practitioners' infectious-diseases monitoring unit, said most calls were unnecessary, and accused the many "worried well" of selfishness.

Hugh Lamont, spokesman for the North West Region Ambulance Services, covering Manchester and Liverpool, said: "The system was overrun. The next stage for people was

to dial 999 and call an ambulance. The hospitals were acting as clearing houses for primary care and also dealing with the more serious cases coming in." At Walsall Manor Hospital, in the West Midlands, 278 emergency admissions were treated over a four-day period last week, an increase of 100 on the same week in the previous year.

All non-urgent operations in the Sandwell Health Authority area of the Black Country have been cancelled because of the outbreak. It has spread across the West Midlands: at a Wolverhampton hospital, 100 people

waiting for treatment were put on stand-by as doctors struggled to cope with demand from flu sufferers.

In South Wales, hospitals were under growing pressure because of the winter illness. Non-urgent surgery was cancelled at the 500-bed Llandough Hospital, near Cardiff, to provide extra beds for patients seriously ill with flu and chest infections. Almost 50 patients were admitted there as emergency cases on Monday.

The only part of England to have escaped is the Southwest. Scotland has been relatively mildly affected.

Casualty ward is 'bursting at seams'

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST NHS trust criticised GPs last night for taking long Christmas and New Year breaks, which have caused a city hospital almost to "burst at the seams".

As patients waited on trolleys for admission yesterday to St James' University Hospital, Leeds, managers said they were furious with family doctors for closing their surgeries for four days over Christmas. They said that the GPs' depurating services had failed to cope, and as a result the 999 service was swamped with calls.

"Patients have bypassed GP services and come straight to us," said Bob Schofield, spokesman for St James', which merged recently with Leeds General Infirmary.

"That is why we have this crisis. It's not because of any flu epidemic because there is no flu epidemic. There is just a flu-like virus, which lays low the elderly and vulnerable but which younger fitter people get over in three to four days."

"When all this is over, we will have to take a long hard look at what happened to primary care, to social services and to community services over the Christmas period."

"Why did so many people end up in hospital? We will have to learn the lessons."

"In 1997, because Christmas Day was on a Thursday, at least surgeries opened on the Saturday, but this year they did not open for four days. It meant that illness built up a head of steam, which became very difficult to deal with."

Mr Schofield said that over 6,000 people had attended the hospital's accident and emergency department between Christmas Eve and 3 January, a 50 per cent increase over the same period last year. However, only 1,500 had been admitted, meaning that most of the rest could have been seen by GPs, had they been available.

"We have only coped thanks to the heroic efforts of the staff. Some patients have suffered. The longest wait was by a patient two days ago who was on a trolley for 19 hours before we could find a bed."

The crisis, he said, had led to the cancellation of non-emergency surgery. Given that the outbreak of the flu-like virus is expected to continue for another week, the hospital is unlikely to return to normal until the end of the month.

Jason Wariner, a nurse with the trust, said: "It's been a very hard few days, the toughest ever especially with problems recruiting nurses and illness among the staff we have. At this stage, the crisis is really wearing down morale."

Corpses stored in refrigerated lorry at hospital

BY CATHY COMERFORD

A HOSPITAL has hired a refrigerated lorry trailer as a temporary mortuary to cope with an unexpected surge in deaths caused by the flu outbreak over the holiday period.

The mobile cold storage unit, which stands at the back of the hospital, is providing 36 extra spaces for bodies that cannot be accommodated in the 80-space mortuary.

"People were dying all over Norfolk," said a spokesman for the Norfolk and Norwich Healthcare NHS Trust, Mark Langlands. "We had to do something." He said the hospital, which has the county's main mortuary, had found no vacancies at the other hospitals in Norfolk - Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Cromer.

The rise in the number of deaths had coincided with the Christmas holidays, which meant fewer funeral directors were arriving to collect bodies for burial and cremation.

A statement issued by the trust said it had "acted promptly to deal with a big increase in deaths" throughout Norfolk.

"The public can be assured the deceased are treated with the utmost respect by our staff, who are working under extreme pressure at this time," the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital's chief executive, Malcolm Stamp, said in the statement.

"This is a short-term measure, but in the circumstances it is the right one. The pressure on beds has eased in the last few days but the situation does remain serious."

Watson-based Edmonds International Transport, which lends refrigerated food trailers to the hospital, has rented out the wagon for the next few weeks.

Its usual clientele include supermarkets needing deliveries or businesses dealing with



The refrigerated lorry outside the hospital in Norwich

wax or leather, which need to be kept at certain temperatures. It had never before been called on to provide a deep freeze for bodies.

Philippa Edmonds, who runs the business with her husband, said yesterday: "I must admit my first reaction was to say no. Then I thought, 'Well we can't just leave them.'

"In hindsight, perhaps I did the wrong thing. So long as people know that we don't use the same trailers to deliver to local supermarkets."

The hospital has fitted the 12-metre-long unit with shelving to accommodate the extra bodies. "They were absolutely desperate," said Mrs Edmonds. "No one else would help. It was better than the alternative, which would have meant putting all the bodies in one room together."

"It does do the job while they don't have any room."

The unit is storing bodies just above freezing, at 2C - which is the same level as the hospital's mortuary. The lorry is parked next to the mortuary and a loading bay used for the hospital's laundry.

Mr Langlands said: "We are using the unit at the moment and we are coping at the moment, and we have no plans at the hospital.

this time to bring in another.

"It's a short-term measure, but in the circumstances it was the right one to take. We cannot put a timescale on it. The situation remains serious and we can't estimate when things will get back to normal."

The hospital is a rambling, redbrick Victorian building in the centre of Norwich, due to be replaced in two years by a modern facility on the edge of town.

The crisis in the mortuary has not spread to the rest of the hospital, which, doctors said yesterday, was functioning normally. But a spokesman did confirm that the seriousness of the flu outbreak in the area had led to the cancellation of all routine surgery.

The spokesman added: "The Association for Influenza Monitoring and Surveillance has predicted that eight out of 10 homes in the Norfolk area will be hit by flu, colds or coughs in the coming weeks."

"Because of the high number of deaths we have had over the Christmas period we are effectively facing a major incident with this situation."

Members of the public visiting the deceased will not have to go into the lorry. There is a purpose-built viewing room at the hospital.



A patient on a trolley at St James' University Hospital, Leeds

Simon Rymer

Death toll in meningitis outbreak rises to nine

BY CATHY COMERFORD

HEALTH EXPERTS are warning the public to watch out for the symptoms of meningitis, after two more deaths from the disease were confirmed yesterday. At least nine deaths from the disease have been reported over Christmas and the New Year, with most of the victims children or teenagers.

Experts said December and January typically see an increase in meningitis reports, and warned people to be alert for the early signs of the bug.

Anne Marie Delrosa, campaign manager for the Meningitis Trust, said: "December or early January are the peak times for meningitis cases - you might see an increase from the average of 38 cases a week to around 70."

"It's important people are vigilant at this time of year. They need to contact a doctor as soon as symptoms appear."

The symptoms of meningitis

include severe headache, vomiting, joint and muscle pains and an aversion to bright light. A rash that does not disperse under pressure indicates meningococcal septicaemia, which is fatal in about 20 per cent of cases.

It was confirmed yesterday that a five-month-old baby and a 42-year-old woman, both from South Wales had become the disease's latest victims. Doctors said the baby, from Dinas Powys, near Cardiff, was taken

ill over Christmas and died in Cardiff's University Hospital from the serious meningococcal strain. The woman patient, of Taffs Well, near Cardiff, died in East Glamorgan Hospital.

Last night it was also reported that two children and a 29-year-old woman from the Wigan area of Greater Manchester had died from the disease.

Public health officials were not making any link between the three deaths, even though the victims lived within

two miles of each other. Jack Williamson, three, was taken ill on Christmas Day and died at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital within 24 hours.

A second child from the same area, who has not been named, died the same weekend.

On 2 January, Maria Edwards of Atherton, near Wigan, also fell ill and died.

A 15-year-old girl was critically ill in hospital last night after contracting the disease.

The teenager - who has not yet

been named - was taken to Heartlands Hospital in Birmingham on Monday morning after suffering from a cough and a cold. Staff there immediately diagnosed meningococcal septicaemia but as there were no intensive care beds available the girl had to be flown to a hospital in Oxford. Within eight hours her symptoms developed into full-blown meningococcal septicaemia.

Last night the girl, from Solihull, was described as "critical but stable" in the John Radcliffe Infirmary.

Dr Paul Turner, consultant public health physician at Solihull Health Authority, said last night: "At about 8.30am on Monday night she had mild symptoms of a cold. In less than eight hours her symptoms developed into full-blown meningococcal septicaemia."

The National Meningitis Trust's 24-hour helpline can be contacted on 0845 6000 800.

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Police on trail of runaway foster family

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE COUPLE with the two blue-eyed girls in the train carriage next to the dining car seemed like any other family enjoying a day out. Noisy, excited, rather boisterous. They had not looked like a family on the run.

But police believe the family spotted on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway last Saturday were the Bramleys - missing for the past four months since the social services demanded the couple return their foster children.

The Rev Jack Cooper, 54, a volunteer ticket collector on the Moortlander steam train, said last night: "I saw a piece on the television appealing for information about this family and the two little girls and I said to my wife, 'I know where they were on Saturday - they were on my train.' To be honest I only noticed them because the children had been misbehaving so much. They were clambering all over the seats and I had to speak to them and politely tell them to shut up."

Police believe Mr Cooper's sighting is the most reliable of many reported since the family disappeared from their home in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire,



A family photograph of Jeff and Jenny Bramley with their foster daughters Jade (left) and Hannah Bennett

113 days ago. On the strength of it they dispatched a team of officers yesterday to Pickering, North Yorkshire, where Mr Cooper said the family had left the train.

The officers spent yesterday in the small town carrying out door-to-door inquiries, visiting the many bed and breakfast establishments and distributing posters of the family. With the assistance of the North Yorkshire force, they have also been making inquiries in the Scarcroft Hill area of York where the family's G-registration blue Honda Concerto sedan was discovered abandoned close to the railway station on 30 December. "We believe there is a good chance the family is in the North Yorkshire area," a police spokeswoman said. "The sighting on the train - like all the others - is not corroborated, but the description was given very good."

Jeff and Jenny Bramley with their foster children - half-sisters Jade Bennett, five, and Hannah, three - were reported missing on September 14. That day the Bramleys had been due to hand back the children to

Cambridgeshire County Council's social services department which, after six months, had decided that the couple were unsuitable parents.

"In many ways they were too strict. It was not one thing in particular. It was a lot of little things. Things were not going as smoothly as they might," said a council spokesman, Bob Pearson. "Our social workers regularly spoke to the Bramleys to point out where they thought they were going wrong. In the end, a decision was taken."

A court ordered that Mr and Mrs Bramley should not be allowed to adopt the girls and that they should no longer be able to foster them. They were ordered to hand them back to the authorities at 10am on the day they were reported missing.

The social services staff are aware the Bramleys have attracted much public sympathy - a frugal, hard-working couple

fighting against bureaucracy being penalised for trying to instil a little discipline. Even staff within the department have been overheard voicing their support for the couple. A Cambridgeshire police spokeswoman said: "There is no doubt they love these little girls very much."

Mrs Bramley's brother, Dave Bodle, has spoken of her desperate struggle to keep the children. "It was clear that Jenny wanted children very much," he said. "They did everything that they could to keep Jade and Hannah. They appealed against the council's decision and started legal proceedings, but nothing worked."

But then, of course, there is the other side. The girls' natural mother, Jackie Bennett, who said she gave them up after suffering from depression, told one newspaper: "I made a huge mistake and I've been suffering

for it ever since. Mr and Mrs Bramley have been so selfish, so cruel. I only ever wanted my children to have a better life. I thought there was something wrong with the Bramleys on the one occasion I met them. I mentioned my concern to social services but was told they were okay and would love the kids."

"Only later was I told they were growing concerns. Now I just want Jade and Hannah home with me."

Last month, a High Court judge involved in civil proceedings concerning the children appealed for public help in tracing the family. Mrs Justice Hogg was concerned that the children's health and education needs were not being met.

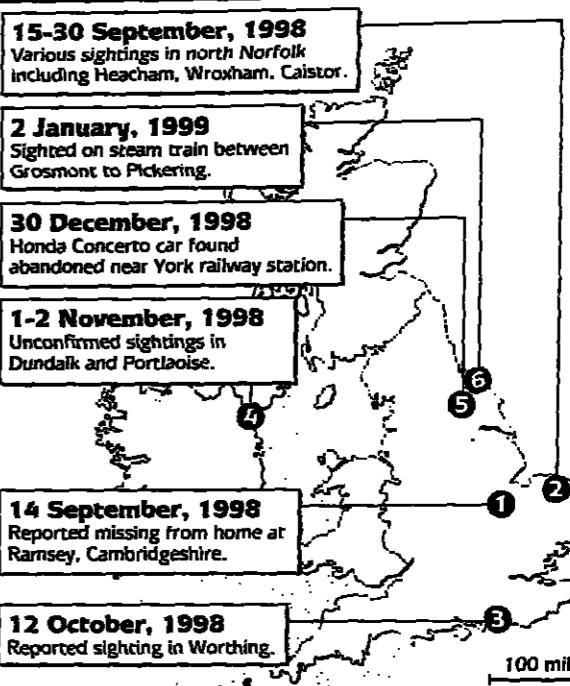
Cambridgeshire social services also remains adamant its decision was correct. "These two little girls had a lot of special needs. They needed a lot of love and attention," said Mr

Pearson. "It might have been all right if the Bramleys were looking after children who were several years older."

The Bramleys did not leave Ramsey completely unprepared. After phoning his employer, the Royal Mail, to say he was sick, Mr Bramley withdrew about £5,000 from the couple's savings. But since they went missing the couple have not attempted to take out any more money and police believe that however frugally they have been living, their funds must now be running low.

Police are convinced Saturday's sighting is their best lead yet and there is a sense that the net may finally be closing on the runaway family. The irony has not been lost on officers that they were tipped off about the Bramleys - penalised by the authorities for being too strict - only because the children had been misbehaving.

BRAMLEY FAMILY SIGHTINGS



Unionist rift exposes Ulster tension

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

A MINOR Unionist party imploded in Belfast yesterday, giving yet another unmistakable sign that Unionism is in a volatile state, which may have ominous repercussions for the peace process.

The split within the UK Unionist Party, which held five of the Northern Ireland Assembly's 108 seats, means that the Unionist cause is now represented by six separate factions within the new institution. Both of the new fragments remain opposed to the Good Friday Agreement.

Opinions differ, however, on whether the development will

seem to command the support of his party's grass roots outside the assembly, within the chamber itself he will become leader of a party without any other members.

The party has in recent times been closely aligned with the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, campaigning vigorously for a "no" vote in last year's referendum on the Good Friday Agreement.

The split was accompanied by a fair amount of acrimony. Mr McCartney accused the DUP of an act of "political infamy", saying they had committed a fraud against the

electorate and challenging them to resign their seats and fight by-elections. He said the dissidents had little or no support and denied their claim that he was a despot intent on dragging them into a boycott of the assembly.

The dissidents said in a statement that they were opposed to Mr McCartney's insistence that he blindly acquiesce in his exit strategy from the assembly.

They said that would weaken the anti-agreement forces, adding: "For elected members to withdraw from the assembly on the personal whim of a party

leader at a time of maximum crisis for the Union would be an act of gross political irresponsibility."

Mr McCartney is one of Northern Ireland's most familiar political figures, taking a prominent part in Unionist politics since the early 1980s. He is Westminster MP for North Down, having relinquished a profitable practice as one of Belfast's leading QC's to take up a full-time political career.

He left the Ulster Unionist Party after disputes in the 1980s, and more recently led his party out of the talks that led to the Good Friday Agreement.

A BOY of 13 was on a life-support machine last night after being shot in the head with an air rifle while playing "soldiers" with friends.

Richard Bryant, of Tudor Green, Jaywick, near Clacton, Essex, was in a stable condition.

A pellet is lodged in his skull. He was among a group playing near Clacton on Monday.

A 14-year-old boy arrested

yesterday was being held in custody on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm. Three other boys, aged 11 to 14, were being interviewed. Police recovered two air-rifles and a pistol that fires blanks.

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

An Essex Police spokesman said: "It was a get-together of young friends which had tragic consequences." The boys were dressed in camouflage.

Police believe that Richard may have been up a tree when he was shot. After he collapsed an attempt was made to give him first aid before one of his friends ran home to call an ambulance.

The police were called in yesterday after a scan showed the pellet lodged in Richard's head. There was an entry wound above the right ear. The pellet travelled across his skull and was wedged in the other side of his head.

He was shot at about 4pm but the emergency services were not called for some time and he arrived at hospital at 7.40pm. Police are trying to establish what caused the delay.

Doctors arranged a transfer to a specialist unit at the Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, because of the severity of the wound.

Richard's mother, Mandy, and his stepfather told police that they were unaware he had been playing with airguns.

Boy shot during game

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The skeletons found at Lakenheath of an Anglo-Saxon chieftain and his horse. The grave also contained a large number of weapons BBC

Ancient warrior rides again after discovery

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

of the most impressive examples of Anglo-Saxon burial grounds to be discovered.

"We know that important men were sometimes buried with their horses but this is the first time we have found the bones in such good condition and with so many weapons as well," he said. "The horse was still wearing its bridle, which is also a unique find."

Mr Richards said the soldier was almost certainly the leader of the community. "We know he was important because his horse was sacrificed on his death. He was also buried with a large number of weapons including a spear, a sword and a knife although he did not die from battle wounds," he said.

"It could simply be that the weapons were included in the grave to signify his power."

The warrior was about 5ft 10in tall and died at the age of 30 but his remains did not reveal the cause of his death. He probably died from illness.

Further examination of the bones revealed that the warrior had suffered from some minor back problems. "These were quite common in Anglo-Saxon men and could have been caused by lifting heavy weights or falling off a horse," Mr Richards said.

The horse had been stunned by a heavy blow to the head before its throat was cut. It was then buried wearing its battle regalia and with a bucket, perhaps containing water for the long journey to the next world, placed beside its head.

The soldier had been buried in a wooden coffin with his weapons laid on the top. There was a knife and some sheep bones, his food, and he was wearing his shield.

The remains are currently in storage at the Suffolk Archaeological Unit but will go on display in a local museum later this year.

■ *'Meet the Ancestors'* will be shown on BBC2 tomorrow at 9pm. A BBC book accompanies the series.

Mentally ill 'guilty of fewer murders'

BY LOUISE JURY

THE NUMBER of murders committed by the mentally ill has fallen in the past 40 years despite public fears to the contrary, leading psychiatrists said yesterday.

An analysis of Home Office statistics appeared to challenge the basis of the Government's plans to lock away more people with schizophrenia and other mental illnesses.

After the case of double murderer Michael Stone, who had a personality disorder, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, said caring for the mentally ill in the community had failed to deal effectively with the most severe cases. He proposed a tougher approach.

Stone was given life sentences last October at Maidstone Crown Court for the killing of mother and daughter Lin and Megan Russell in Kent. He also left for dead Josie Russell, then aged nine.

Professors Pamela Taylor and John Gunn of the Institute of Psychiatry in London said there was no proof that care in the community had failed. According to their analysis of official statistics the number of murders committed by the mentally ill had halved from 121 in 1979 to 60 in 1995, the last year of available figures. They had fallen by 3 per cent a year since 1967.

Professor Gunn said drunkenness and drugs were a bigger factor than schizophrenia in killings. The professors appealed for people with mental illness not to be stigmatised as most posed no risk to others.

Professor Taylor said: "A homicide is an appalling tragedy for all directly concerned, but single cases, however,

ever shocking and publicised, do not constitute evidence for failure of a national system of care, nor for far-reaching changes in legislation and service delivery."

"Confining people with a mental illness to hospital to save 40 or so lives would be analogous to abolishing private motoring to prevent the 4,000 or so road deaths."

In a paper published yesterday in the British Journal of Psychiatry, the professors said tackling substance misuse or personality disorder was "the most important challenge for the development of mental health services".

Professor Robert Kendell, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said it was nonsensical to conclude there would be no homicides if psychiatry services and social services were working properly.

Professors Taylor and Gunn criticised organisations such as the Zito Trust, set up by Jayne Zito after her husband was murdered by a schizophrenic, to influence mental health policy.

Michael Howlett, of the Zito Trust, said the tragedy of 40 to 50 murders a year did require far-reaching reforms in mental health services, although the trust had never said the problem was increasing.

"The Zito Trust supports the Government's mental health strategy and looks forward to new legislation and improved services so that those who suffer from mental disorders of all kinds can live safely in the community, knowing they will get help as and when they need it," he added.

IN BRIEF

Mother-to-be's jailing condemned

PRISON REFORMERS attacked the decision to jail a woman who is due to give birth. The Howard League for Penal Reform said the four-month sentence, given at Liverpool Crown Court, is inappropriate. Sharon Williams, 32, from Liverpool, was jailed on Monday after pleading guilty to possessing amphetamines with intent to supply.

Girl, 12, bailed on murder charge

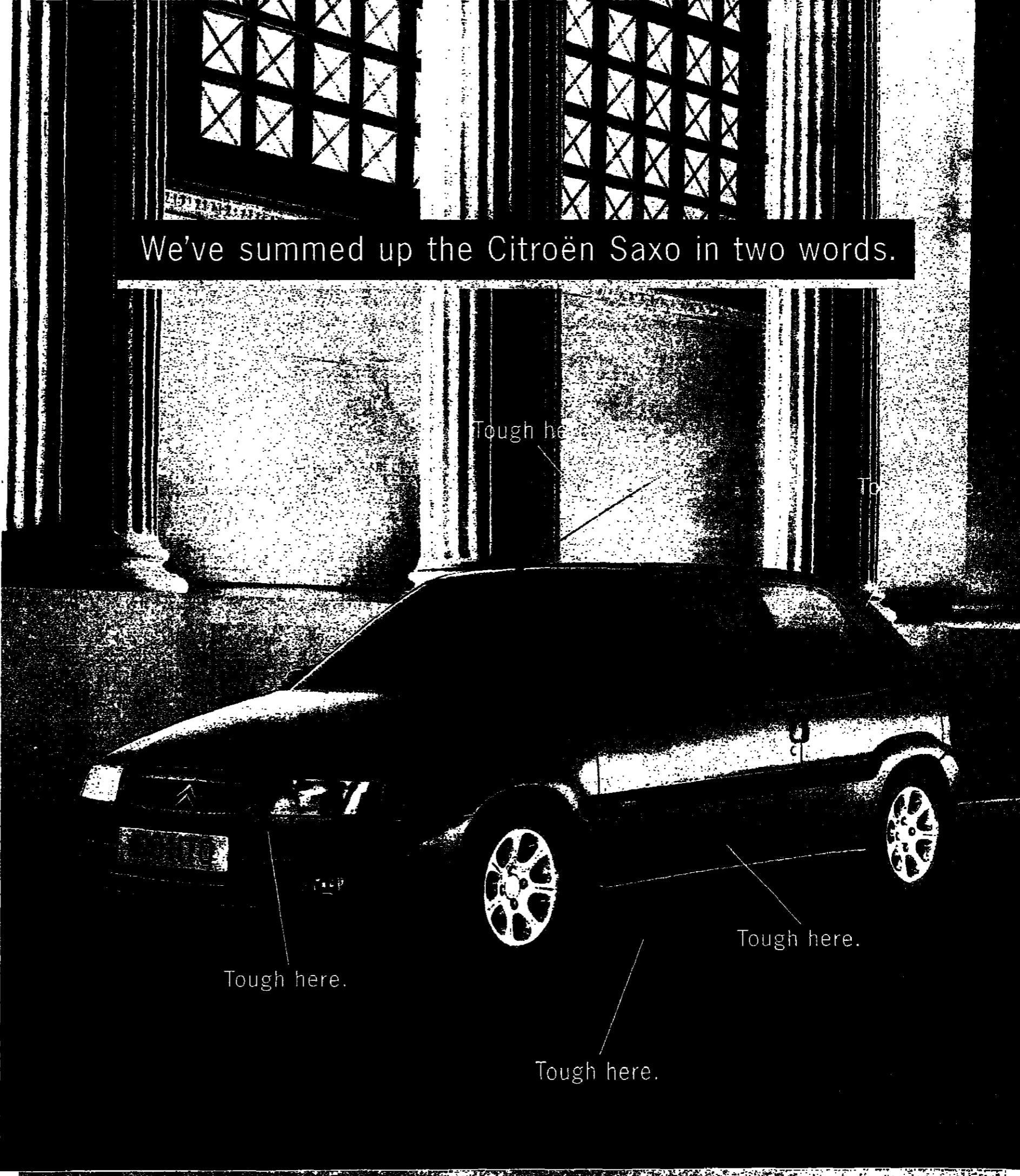
A 12-YEAR-OLD girl accused of murdering a 16-month-old child while baby-sitting was remanded on bail yesterday until 16 February by Manchester Youth Court. The girl is charged with murdering Molly Adams, who died in hospital last month two days after being admitted suffering from a fractured skull and brain injury.

Dirty water costs supplier £14,800

ANGLIAN WATER was fined £10,000 with £4,800 costs at Witham magistrates' court in Essex for giving customers discoloured water. The company admitted supplying water unfit for human consumption. The prosecution was brought after brownish coloured water was supplied to 11,000 people in Halstead, Essex, in 1997.

£1m spent on blood donor adverts

A £1M NATIONAL advertising campaign was launched yesterday to recruit blood donors. The hard-hitting adverts follow recent statistics which showed that less than 6 per cent of the eligible population gives blood.



For a small car, the Citroën Saxo is mighty tough. The reinforced safety cell provides a rigid steel body, which, combined with front and rear crumple zones, gives extra protection inside the Saxo. And, if city life does throw up anything unexpected, the side impact protection system will absorb pressure away from passengers. Not forgetting driver and passenger airbags, proving the Saxo's not just full of hot air. It's also got a key-mounted engine immobiliser, which helps prevent the car from being taken by any unsavoury characters. While the advanced suspension design ensures better handling around corners, the acoustically engineered floor minimises road noise, allowing a quieter ride. Incredibly, all this from £6,995 (including 1 year's free insurance) makes the Saxo a tough proposition to resist. For further information call 0800 262 262.



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Single currency: Analysts claim that lower prices are on the way – but the high street is slow on the uptake

Hard job for euro bargain hunters

BUY YOUR French car in Germany and your chart-topping British CD in Italy. Cross-Channel day-trippers have compared prices for years but retailers are only slowly making plans to mark goods in euros.

The single currency will become the bargain hunter's best friend even before it is in our pockets. But retailers have been given three years' grace before all items are required to be marked in euros.

There is confusion among retailers and a lack of interest among shoppers. "We shall not be marking items in euros in the near future," said a spokesman for the Stockmann department store in Helsinki. "We shall mark all our goods in euros and the Finnish mark soon," said his colleague.

At the Karstadt department store in Bonn, the shop manager, Breit Graf, said: "Since Saturday we've printed the totals on our receipts in deutsch-

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH,
DIANE COYLE
AND PHILIP THORNTON

marks and euros. We have printed some 50,000 receipts but few customers have remarked on it. We are disappointed."

At Galeries Lafayette in Paris, receipts are also in euros and francs but a spokeswoman said: "We have no date for dual pricing. It will happen gradually."

Even though the euro will not be in consumers' pockets until 1 January 2002 – with old currencies being withdrawn in participating countries on 30 June of that year – it is already clear the currency will lead to greater competition. Indeed, the European Union is running a "rounding down" campaign, to encourage retailers to cut prices when they relabel. Thus DM1.99 will become 0.99 euros rather than 1.02 euros.

A survey by *The Independent* of the cost of 10 items in

five European countries – including Britain, which is not in euroland – shows enormous price disparities. Were we to have euros in our pockets today – thus avoiding punitive exchange rates and bank commission – Italy would be the cheapest place for a Big Mac and the most expensive for a jar

of Nescafé. Britain would be the place to buy the iMac but not the Tomb Raider 3 computer game. The cheapest Levi 501s would be in Germany and the dearest George Michael CD in France. Overall, January sales notwithstanding, Germany is cheapest for most of the items. It is certainly the place to buy

a Peugeot 306. The basic three-door model is 6,568 euros cheaper than in Britain.

But British motor industry analysts believe car prices will not necessarily come down to the levels of the cheapest countries. Rather, they predict prices will converge in the middle. Because Britain is exempt

from European competition rules, car manufacturers are able to set up exclusive relationships with UK dealers. This provision – known as the block exemption – was criticised by a powerful cross-party group of MPs, which last month found UK consumers paid too much for their cars.

The Society of Motor Manu-

facturers and Traders, which has blamed exchange rates for high prices in Britain, believes pricing in euros will put the focus on the levels of purchase tax on cars, which varies from 15 per cent in Germany to 200 per cent in Denmark.

On European-wide goods such as soft drinks, toothpaste and batteries – which often have multi-lingual packaging already – consumer watchdogs believe prices will converge.

Other prices will most prob-

ably remain disparate because of cultural differences. Nescafé is adjusted to suit national palates and washing powder is frothier in northern Europe than in the south. Some con-

sumers, therefore, might prefer always to buy locally.

The Brussels-based Euro-

pean Consumers' Organisation

called this week for business-

es to speed up efforts towards

dual pricing.

The organisation – which recently found car radios to be up to 36 per cent cheaper in Rome than in London – also warns that provision must be made for consumer protection as cross-border purchases, in person or by Internet, become more common.



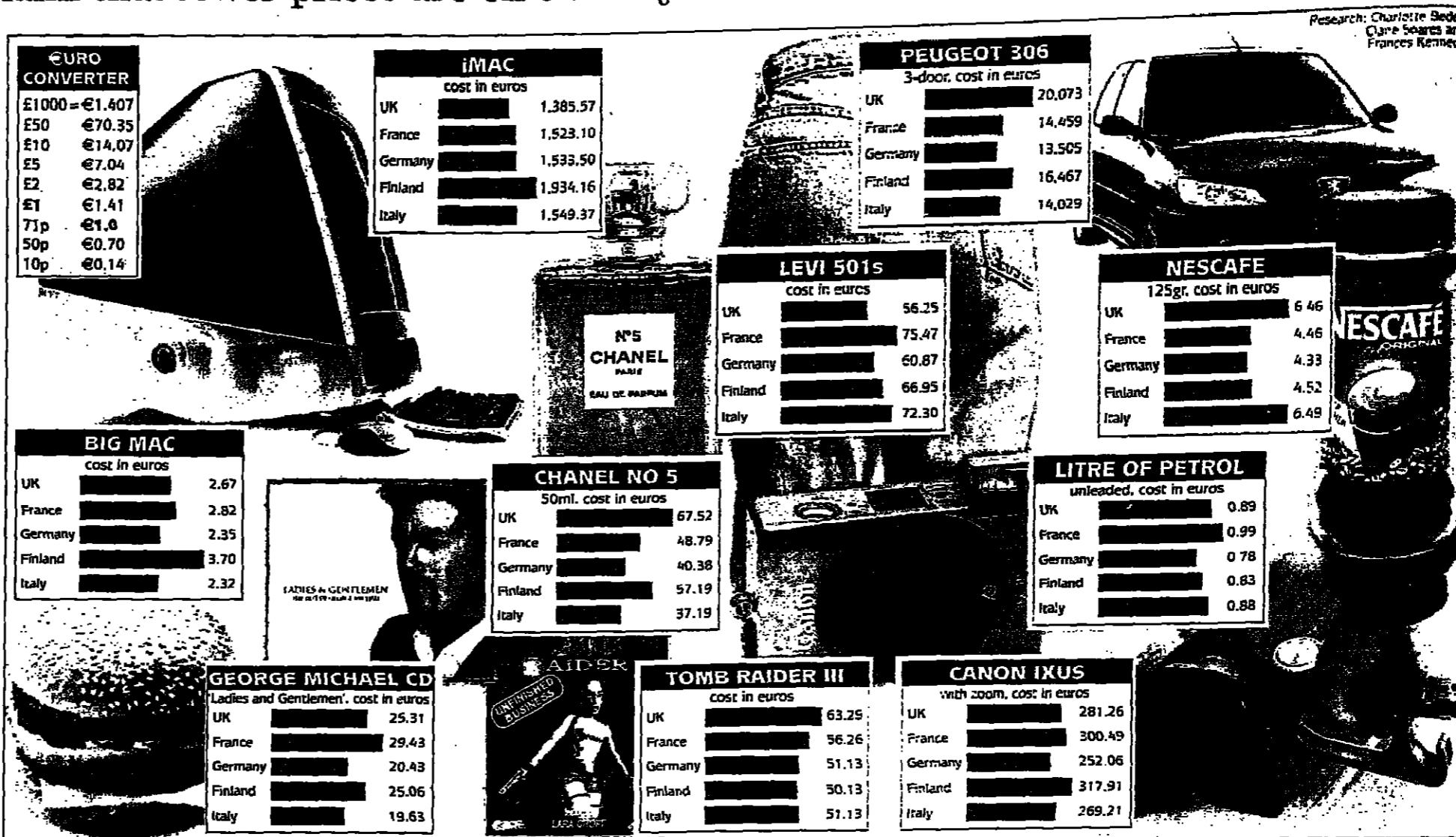
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New kid in town too hot to handle

BY JOHN DAVISON

AMJAD, THE smiling man in the Bureau de Change, laughed out loud when asked if he was selling euro travellers' cheques. "No, no. Come back in 2002," he said.

Given that the bureau is called Eurochange and that it is sited on the busiest shopping street in Britain, it seems that not everyone in this continental outpost has embraced the euro programme. Other attempts to complete our euro shopping list on Oxford Street were variously met with furrowed brows, nervous smiles and much head shaking before eventual – partial – success.

Even the man at the American Express bureau on Regent Street seemed momentarily thrown. "Yes, they do have euro travellers' cheques, but we were the first people to have asked for any. Other curious members of staff gathered to stare at the exotic pieces of paper as the two 50-euro cheques were issued.

And that was the easy bit. Starting small, we tried to buy a copy of the latest George Michael CD from HMV. The sales girl's confident demeanour visibly fell away when one of the cheques was presented. She ran for the phone. "Err... we are going to take them but the computers aren't running yet," she said. "You could use them at one of our airport branches."

As Heathrow seemed a bit of a hike we decided to approach the Division One music shop. "What am I supposed to do with



The single currency is a foreign currency in Britain

this? Roll it up and smoke it?" said the owner, Johnny Chander, when presented with a euro cheque. He didn't say "groovy" but he did, however, check with his bank what trading with euros would entail and discovered several pitfalls for the small retailer.

He would be charged £4 to process a cheque for anything below 300 euros (£6 on more than that) and, without a euro account, it would be treated as a foreign currency.

It was time to go back to Amjad. Would he change our euro travellers' cheques for sterling? A call to head office revealed that this, too, was a no-no for Eurochange.

The prize for pragmatism went to Hussain Mohammed, a director of A&M Electronics on Tottenham Court Road.

"At the end of the day, we are here to take money, and I don't care what denomination you pay in," he said. "We already

'Eurolande' challenges a Mickey Mouse name

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

FRANCE – or rather part of France – is fighting a rear-guard action against the word *euroland*, the semi-official title for the 11 countries using the euro.

The newspaper *Liberation* is trying to promote an acceptable French alternative – *eurolande*, with a terminal but unsounded "e". Linguistic purists, however, point out that "*lände*" in French does not mean country but heath or bog. Can you really have the 300 million citizens of the euro zone living in a place called *eurobog*?

This is nonsense, say *Liberation* and others. Thailand, Holland, Irlande and Nouvelle-Zélande are all perfectly good precedents. In any

case, *euroland* sounds like a poor imitation of Disneyland. Should everyone in euroland wear Mickey Mouse ears in the shape of the new euro symbol?

Henri Lavenir de Buffon, head of an organisation trying to promote French as Europe's single language, wants to go a step further. He suggests that *eurolande* should be imposed as the official title of the euro zone, for all 11 nationalities and all nine languages taking part in the first wave of the single currency. That, he says, would be a "protection against cheap Americanisation and treason against Europe".

The new currency has caused a similar linguistic headache in Russia. In both French and German, the euro has been made a masculine word. But, in the absence of an official ruling in Russian, the country's newspapers have made it bisexual, swinging between masculine and feminine and occasionally straying into neuter.

Dilemma for Congress on Clinton trial

THE US Congress reconvenes today amid almost unprecedented conflict and uncertainty for a session that could be a turning point in American history or merely the continuation of the troubled status quo - or almost anything in between.

With the fate of the President in its hands, the Senate must decide whether to open an impeachment trial or settle - as the White House and minority Democrats would prefer - for something less.

The Senate Republican leader, Trent Lott, said the trial would probably start tomorrow. But yesterday, there was still no agreement among the many different interests about how the Senate would, or should, proceed. The White House, which had angled a deal that would either preclude a trial or curtail it, was reported to be still hoping for the best, while preparing for the worst.

White House officials let it be known that its lawyers were preparing an "aggressive" defence of the President against the charges in the two articles of impeachment passed by the House of Representatives last month. The charges accuse

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

Mr Clinton of perjury in lying to a federal grand jury about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky and obstructing the course of justice by - among other things - lying to potential witnesses in the knowledge that they would unwittingly relay the lies when questioned under oath.

Senate Democrats, who appeared divided through the autumn about what measures should be taken against Mr Clinton, have progressively united in recent weeks behind calls for the President to be severely censured, but not tried. They were brought into line after Senator Pat Moynihan of New York, a stickler for constitutional correctness, changed his stance in favour of resignation or trial - into a view that Mr Clinton's conduct did not fit the definition of "high crimes and misdemeanours" needed for removal from office.

In one of the contrary effects that have come to characterise Bill Clinton's presidency, it is the Republican majority in the Senate that goes into the new ses-

sion today divided. Purists among them insist that the articles of impeachment by the House give the Senate no alternative but to hold a trial. Others insist that the Senate has the power to decide how to proceed, and could decide not to hold a trial at all. Others say that a trial should be opened, for the sake of constitutional form, but could then be halted by a simple majority vote, or accelerated.

What divides the Republicans is a divergent view of the constitution and Mr Clinton's offences - whether, as many Democrats insist, it is "all about sex", or whether it is about the chief law officer breaking the law of the land. But political considerations also intrude, as Republican senators try to judge the mood of the state they represent in favour of resignation or trial - into a view that Mr Clinton's conduct did not fit the definition of "high crimes and misdemeanours" needed for removal from office.

The Republican majority in the House of Representatives yesterday elected Dennis Hastert, a seven-term Congressman from Illinois, to be House Speaker after the resignation of the Speaker-elect, Bob Livingston, amid allegations about his private life.

When Pat Moynihan, the revered New York Democrat,

storming campaigning for Democratic candidates in the mid-term elections - and the Republican mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani.

Last weekend, New Jersey Senator Robert Torricelli, head of the Democrats' Senatorial Campaign Committee, suggested Mrs Clinton might establish residency in New York before the end of this year

to qualify as a Senate candidate. Whether because this was kite-flying originating in her office, or because the White House was otherwise occupied, there was no denial of the report - fueling the rumour mill still further.

The New York Times saw no difficulty in principle with a Hillary Rodham candidacy. "Empire State voters", it said,

"tend to regard anyone famous as an honorary New Yorker." It did warn, however, that Mrs Clinton could expect a tough fight, predicting: "No one will win it in a walk."

But it encouraged her to run in the name of "large fields, intense competition and the general theory of the more the merrier". The White House response was yet more silence.

Heavyweight backing for Senator Hillary

SEVERAL WEEKS of speculation that Hillary Clinton could graduate from being First Lady to representing New York State in the US Senate received the approving imprimatur of no less august an institution than *The New York Times* yesterday, which printed a lead editorial headed: "Senator Rodham?"

One columnist fondly imagined a contest between Hillary - then exulting in her barn-

storming campaign for Democratic candidates in the mid-term elections - and the Republican mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani.

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Britain sends aid to beleaguered Kabbah

BY JAMES ROBERTS

BRITAIN ANNOUNCED yesterday it is giving £1m of "logistical" and other support to the beleaguered government of Sierra Leone and the Nigerian-led force that is combating a fierce rebel advance on the capital, Freetown.

"This further assistance to the government of Sierra Leone and Ecomog is a demonstration of our commitment to help bring stability to Sierra Leone and promote democracy in that country and more widely in Africa," said the Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd.

A Foreign Office spokesman said two-thirds of the aid would go directly to the West African Ecomog forces resisting the rebels, and would include medical supplies, spares and transport equipment.

The rebels reached Hastings airport on the eastern outskirts of Freetown at the weekend.

Nigerian warplanes were in action yesterday in an attempt to prevent them entering the capital. An Ecomog spokesman said Nigerian Alpha jets had bombed rebels yesterday in a mountain cave hideout in Mankey, near the airport and killed more than 100. Nigerian planes were also in action around Lunsum, north of Freetown, and Ecomog troops had retaken the nearby town of Port Loko, the spokesman said.

The insurgents are remnants of old soldiers and guerrillas loyal to a military junta evicted from Freetown by Ecomog last February, 10 months after a coup against the democratically elected president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah.

Ecomog reinstated Mr Kabbah in March but the rebels regrouped and launched a new campaign after their leader, Foday Sankoh, was sentenced to death for treason in October.

Although both Ecomog and the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone have discounted any rebel takeover of the capital, the insurgents still hold sway in the north of the country and are controlling the northern provincial capital, Makeni, which they retook from Ecomog last week.

"They are patrolling Makeni in Jeeps and on foot, stopping people from fleeing the town.

Many residents, however, continue to flee. Those reaching Freetown have given accounts of summary executions of people the rebels consider sympathetic to President Kabbah.

Ecomog reinstated Mr Kabbah in March but the rebels regrouped and launched a new

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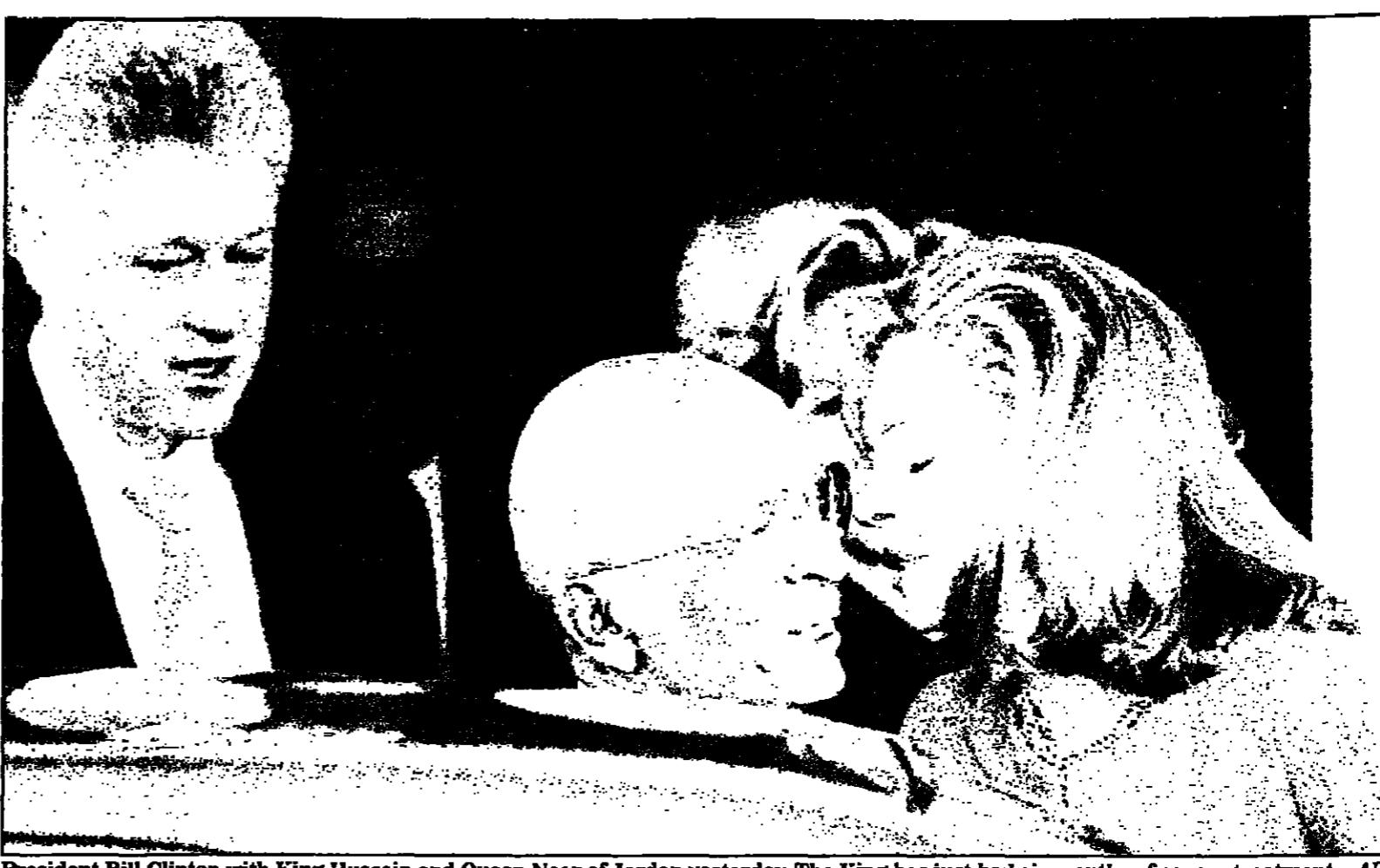
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President Bill Clinton with King Hussein and Queen Noor of Jordan yesterday. The King has just had six months of cancer treatment AP

Important Notice to Members from your Board of Directors



We have received a Members' resolution calling on us to take steps to convert your Building Society from a Mutual into a Plc (public company) Bank.

As the resolution has been endorsed by the required 50 Members it will be put to your vote as part of our Annual General Meeting (AGM) next April. Members should be aware that, by law, the resolution can only be used to guide the Board. It is not binding.

Your Board is unanimous in its conviction that becoming a Bank is not in the interest of our 2.5 million current Members and their successors.

If we were to become a Bank we would have to raise mortgage rates and drop savings rates to pay dividends to the Bank's shareholders.

In the weeks ahead we will be writing to you to:

- Explain why staying mutual makes sense
- Outline plans for the future, and
- Encourage you to participate in the Society's future by voting on this important AGM issue

Because the Members' resolution could encourage "carpetbaggers" to swamp our offices we have decided not to accept new savings Members until after our AGM.

We will continue to serve our existing Members and welcome new customers for mortgages and independent financial advice.

Lindsay Mackinlay
Chairman

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الدولي المدى

Driving forward to the Big Six

News Analysis: Car making is again awash with merger talk. Is Daimler-Chrysler the deal that unleashes a flood of global consolidation?

AS THE Detroit Motor Show got into full swing yesterday, the world car industry was again awash with merger speculation.

Ford of the US was said to be plotting takeovers of Honda of Japan and Germany's BMW, both of which denied they were in talks. A day earlier, Japan's Nissan poured scorn on reports that it was preparing to link up with Ford.

Meanwhile Robert Eaton, co-chairman of Daimler-Chrysler, itself the product of \$90bn merger last year, fanned the flames by predicting that two European car manufacturers would join forces in the next 90 days.

Everyone in the car industry seems to think that consolidation is inevitable. Most also believe it will be a good thing. But guessing who will jump into bed with whom, and on what terms, is a less exact science.

In the past decade not a single major car maker – and very few minor ones – has escaped being confidently linked to takeover deals. Pern virtually any pair from a long list. Apart from this week's flurry, the more recent crop of rumours has had Volvo merging with Fiat or Ford, or perhaps Renault and BMW merging with Fiat – or is it Volkswagen?

But what corporate activity there has been has tended to take place at the fringes of the industry. Thus Fiat has swallowed Lancia and Ferrari; Volkswagen has taken Seat, Skoda and Rolls-Royce under its wing; BMW has acquired Rover; Ford now owns Jaguar and General Motors has assumed control of Saab of Sweden.

But the much vaunted mega-mergers – the deals that would carve the world car market up among a few major players – have failed to materialise. Until Daimler-Chrysler, that is.

At a stroke, the takeover created a group with revenues of \$130bn (£78bn) and unit sales of 4 million cars and light commercial vehicles a year, propelling Daimler-Chrysler into fifth place in the world automotive league, above the likes of Fiat, Nissan, Honda and Peugeot-Citroën. Suddenly, Sir Alex Trotman's vision of the

By MICHAEL HARRISON

"Big Six" seemed within reach once more.

The idea that within a few short years there may only be half a dozen car makers which matter – two in North America, two in Asia and two in Europe – may sound extreme. But the economic argument for rationalisation is persuasive. The world car industry is generally reckoned to have 40 per cent surplus manufacturing capacity. The vast bulk of this is in Europe, where the industry is estimated to have the capacity to build 22 million vehicles compared with the 16 million produced last year.

According to a recent report from consultants KPMG, the world's car makers plan to build 15 million more cars over the next three years than most forecasters believe there is demand for. James Bentley, the chairman of the firm's European automotive practice in Birmingham, says: "There are too many assembly factories in Europe and there is too much capacity, although there will still be waiting lists for the sought-after models. Even more capacity is being brought on stream. Something has to happen, and the high-cost, low-productivity sites will inevitably lose out."

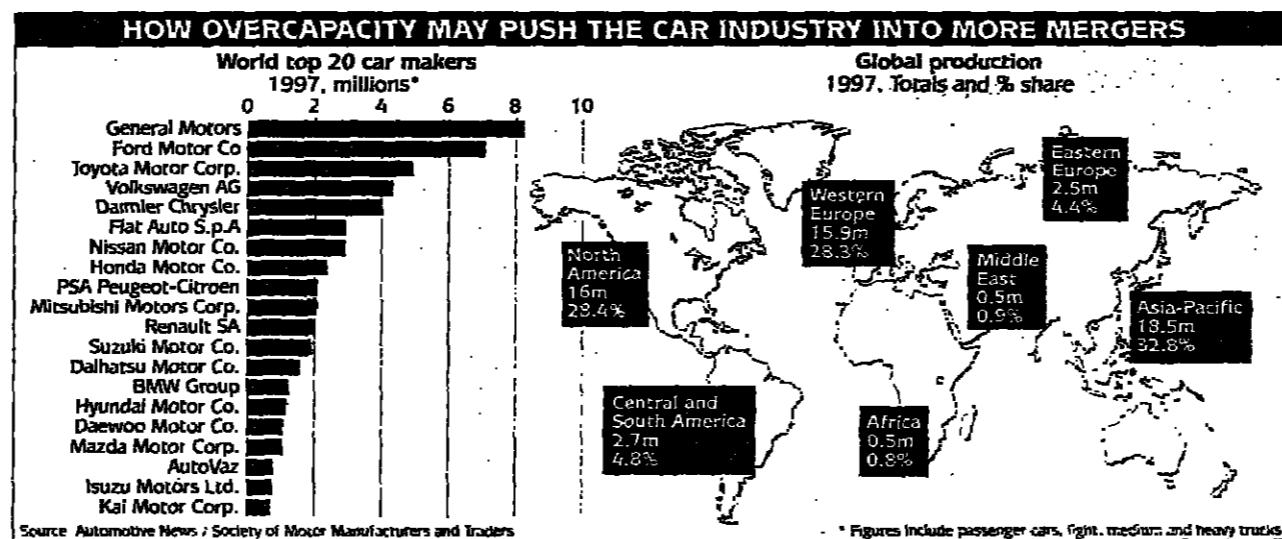
The striking thing about Daimler-Chrysler, however, is that the merger involved no plant closures and no job losses. In terms of geographic coverage and product range, the deal was as near a perfect fit as could be achieved, with Daimler's focus on Europe and the luxury end of the car market and Chrysler's concentration on the US and the light truck and utility vehicle market.

Even so, Daimler-Chrysler still expects to achieve savings worth \$3bn in three years through better procurement, more efficient use of capacity and the sharing of technology and best working practices.

A takeover of BMW by either General Motors or Ford would be a complementary fit in many respects. So, too, would an acquisition of Volvo, although GM's ownership of the other Swedish car maker, Saab, could



Ford chairman Bill Ford unveils the Focus at the Detroit show: the US car maker has been linked with bids for BMW and Honda EPA



Source: Automotive News / Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders

be an obstacle. It is not obvious, however, that the Qandt family, which controls BMW, is interested in selling out, while Volvo's institutional shareholders would surely hold out for a high price.

If Ford were to acquire BMW, the combined group would be equal in size to GM, the world's biggest car maker.

There would be a product and capacity overlap in the UK, where Ford would end up with six production sites because of BMW's ownership of Rover.

At least half of these would probably go. But the carnage in terms of job losses and plant closures, and the subsequent political uproar, would be infinitely greater if two of Europe's

volume car makers were to merge.

For this reason, some observers are cautious about the likelihood of European consolidation. John Lawson, automotive analyst with Salomon Brothers, says: "Everyone can see that the structure of the industry is not right, but at the same time it isn't in the inter-

ests of any two manufacturers to solve the problem for their competitors."

He thinks, however, that Asia is a different proposition. Car makers there are in a much weaker position now than two years ago, and the two most vulnerable to an approach from Ford or GM are Nissan and Mitsubishi. "If their cash flow from

the US is good and Europe remains stable, then this may be a good time to recycle some funds by expanding into Asia," adds Mr Lawson.

But then again, both Nissan and Mitsubishi have poison pills built into their balance sheets in the shape of enormous debts – in Nissan's case these stand at \$36bn. "Unless the banks take a haircut, that makes them quite indigestible at the moment," says Mr Lawson.

So will the great rumour mill produce any real corporate activity this year? Jim Donaldson, president of Ford of Europe, says 1999 will be the year of restructuring. Mr Eaton, too, is sticking by his prediction of a European tie-up within the next three months.

But as Mr Lawson observes: "There is sometimes an element of mischievousness in what the senior management of car companies say. They have to be taken with a certain pinch of salt."

If Mr Eaton is right, we will not have to wait long to find out.

IN BRIEF

Meyer in £56m timber sale

MEYER INTERNATIONAL yesterday announced the sale of its Pont Meyer Import and Merchant divisions, which distribute timber and building materials to William Pont, part of HAL. Investments for £56m in cash.

Meyer retains its Dutch tiles, kitchens and bathroom business, which has been transferred to its specialist products division. The businesses sold made an operating profit of £1m in the year to the end of March 1998 but the disposal will trigger an exceptional loss of £13m. The shares shed 11.5% to 335p.

Telecoms jobs go

MORE THAN 200 workers at Telecom Manufacturing in Airdrie, Lanarkshire have lost their jobs following the company's collapse. Unions at the plant are demanding a DTI inquiry into the job losses. They claim the business is owed £5m by a sister company. The factory makes components for the telecoms sector. A wind-up order was granted before Christmas.

Top pay rises

EXECUTIVE PAY continues to rise above inflation but the differential between chief executives and other directors continued to narrow last year, reflecting the continuing demand for high quality executives, according to an annual report prepared by actuaries Watson Wyatt Worldwide.

Chief executives received median increases of 9.2 per cent in their total cash remuneration, with other directors achieving a 13.5 per cent rise. Half of chief executives polled received a bonus of less than 25 per cent on their base salary and only 20 per cent received a bonus of more than 60 per cent.

Euclidian up 22%

EUCLIDIAN, the insurance group, increased pretax profits by 22 per cent to £1.7m in the six months to September, mainly because of increased company investments and the inclusion of a full year of trading from Euclidian Underwriting which operates Syndicate 1243 at Lloyd's. The shares fell by 2p to 119.5p.

Colegraphic sold

COLEOGRAPHIC, a direct mail printer that was the subject of a £27m management buy-out three years ago with the backing of NatWest Equity partners, has been sold. The buyer is New York quoted Big Flower Holdings. The price paid has not been disclosed. Colegraphic made revenues of £33m last year. It is Big Flower's second UK acquisition in less than a year.

HSBC Korean bid

HSBC, the UK-based bank which last week lost out in the bidding for Korea First Bank, has been invited to tender for SeoulBank, the second of the two Korean banks being privatised as part of the IMF-backed deregulation programme. HSBC lost out last week after insisting that the government cut its stake to no more than 20 per cent. A rival US-backed consortium was prepared to settle for 51 per cent leaving the government with 49 per cent.

Abbot and ProSafe in £500m tie-up to create drilling giant

THE RAPIDLY-consolidating oil industry witnessed another merger yesterday when Abbot Group, an oil contractor, announced a £500m tie-up with its Norwegian rival, ProSafe, to form the world's largest operator of drilling platforms.

The all-share, no-premium merger of equals will create a dominant player in the North Sea oil market with combined sales of over £300m and more than 3,000 employees.

The two firms said the deal would lead to very few redundancies among Abbot's Aberdeen-based 1,800 employees and ProSafe's 1,200 staff as there was little overlap between the two companies.

The merged entity will op-

erate 26 offshore oil platforms on behalf of large oil corporations in the UK and Norwegian waters of the North Sea.

Shares in both companies soared on news of the deal as industry analysts said that the merger would boost Abbot and ProSafe's earnings. Abbot rose 13.5p to 192.5p, while ProSafe rocketed 58 per cent to 38.5 Norwegian kroner on the Oslo stock exchange.

City analysts said the merger had been partly driven by the two companies' need to increase their critical mass following a string of mergers among their main customers and a collapse in oil prices.

Alasdair Locke, Abbot's chairman and largest shareholder, will become the executive chairman of the enlarged group. Reidar Lund, ProSafe's

chief executive officer, is set to remain in the same post in the new entity, the two companies said.

Michael Salter, Abbot's chief operating officer, said the merger would give the company the financial firepower to expand in lucrative oil markets in the Caspian Sea and Western Africa.

Mr Salter said that the combined group would use its position in the offshore platforms markets to expand in other areas of the oil services industry.

"The merger will give us added strength. The objective is to use that strength to provide a wide range of oil services around the world," he said.

TRAVELEX, the specialist chain of airport currency shops, is being restructured with the help of a management buy-out backed by 3i, the venture capitalists.

The two existing institutional backers, Abbey National, which has had a 33 per cent stake since 1996 and now offers

its own travel money service, and Investec, which bought the 21 per cent stake originally held by Hammars, are both selling out.

They will be replaced by 3i, which is financing an increase in the stake held by the existing management, led by the founder and chief executive Lloyd Dorfman, from 46 per cent to 67 per cent. In addition,

3i will hold directly a 33 per cent stake.

The company, which began with a single office in 1976 and expects to make a profit of £7m this year before interest and tax, will eventually be floated but there will be no pressure to do so quickly, a 3i spokesman said.

Travelex maintains that the timing of the deal has nothing to do with the start of trading in the euro. National currencies will continue to circulate into 2002 and their eventual replacement by euros will mainly affect demand from tourists.

Tourists mostly buy their currency from high street banks and travel agents, 65 per cent

whose turnover comes from customers travelling to destinations in Euroland.

Travelex specialises in airport sites and intercontinental locations where it services long-distance and business travellers, whose demand for foreign currency is expected to grow at least in line with the overall volume of travel.

It also has numerous outlets in the US and Australia. Only 20 per cent of its business depends on short-haul tourists in Europe. As the pattern of demand for currencies changes, Travelex expects to develop partnership deals with high street outlets to provide their customers with currency as they pass through airports.

at least – still looking relatively cheap by historical standards.

For the UK as a whole, average house prices are around four-times annual average income. This compares to around six times at the peak of the last boom in the late 1980s. A further recovery in house prices does not, therefore, need an out-of-control boom, but rather a continued recovery towards "normal" house price valuations relative to income.

So, the economy is in good financial shape and activity and asset prices are not boozing to the degree they have at the peak of previous cycles; all pointing to relatively modest slowdown in growth. Yet confidence, at the equivalent point to now in the last cycle, the UK saving ratio – savings as a proportion of personal income – stands at around 7 per cent. This compares to a slightly negative saving ratio in the US, although a small part of the difference may be explained by different definitions.

First, policy is being eased at a far earlier stage of the economic cycle than has been the case in the UK's history. Second, the economy looks well placed to respond positively to low interest rates. Base rates started to fall while growth was merely slowing this time. In the early 1990s, output was already falling substantially before a clear peak in base rates was in place.

The response of the economy to lower base rates depends crucially on the health of house

Expect things to get worse before they get better

NOVEMBER'S SHARP bounce in retail sales – up by 0.8 per cent in the month, when most had expected a further fall – was the first upside surprise on economic activity for many months.

Of course, the usual caveats about not reading too much into one monthly data apply, but the figures do suggest the risks for the economy in 1999 might be a little more evenly balanced than the overwhelming gloom that dominates much commentary might suggest. A glance at forecasters' expectations suggests the same. The consensus among private sector economists is that the economy will expand by somewhere between half a per cent and 1 per cent in 1999.

This is certainly slow enough to encompass the possibility of a technical recession – two consecutive quarters of negative GDP growth. And growth this slow would probably result in unemployment rising by around half a million. But for the peri-

od of healthy growth seen since the early 1990s to end with a slowdown of this magnitude – rather than a sizeable contraction in output before a pick-up back towards trend growth in 2000 – would signal a significant break with the tradition of the last several decades.

Typically, downturns in the

UK have been characterised by output failing cumulatively by around 5 per cent. Why should things be different this time? Primarily, it comes down to a question of balance. At the height of the economic boom of the late 1980s, the UK corporate sector was in financial deficit – the excess of investment over saving – to the tune of 5 per cent of GDP.

The current account – the UK's financial position with the rest of the world – was in deficit to almost the same degree. Estimates of the output gap – the level of output relative to what is sustainable without accelerating inflation – suggest it had become positive to the tune of about 6 per cent of GDP. Against this background, a collapse in output had become necessary to get the economy back on track.

At the peak of this economic cycle, things look very different. The current account is in surplus, the corporate sector is only marginally deficit, and most estimates suggest output is less

than 1 per cent above trend. The economy simply does not need the sort of slowdown that has typically ended upswings.

Unfortunately, of course, what the economy needs is not always what it gets. And the forward-looking indicators have pointed to a sharper slowdown than even the most pessimistic interpretation of the economy's growth potential would imply is required. But beyond the next few months, there are further reasons for relative optimism.

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The response of the economy to lower base rates depends crucially on the health of house

prices. At the equivalent point to now in the last cycle, the UK saving ratio – savings as a proportion of personal income – stands at around 7 per cent. This compares to a slightly negative saving ratio in the US, although a small part of the difference may be explained by different definitions.

As the chart shows, on this basis, base rates have only just moved to the right side of neutral by historical standards. Add in the strength of sterling and there is little doubt that policy overall remains tight. With the MPC apparently coming to the same conclusion, expect base rates to fall rapidly from here with a trough of 5 per cent or less in place.

All-in-all, expect news on the economy to get worse before it gets better in 1999. But with the MPC acting quickly to avert a sharper slowdown than is necessary, 1999 should, by the UK's standards, be a relatively soft landing.

Adam Cole is UK economist at HSBC Economics and Investment Strategy.

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RISES						FALLS					
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620 385 Allied Domecq	550.0	+1.05	4.6	52.00000	503.5	44.00	4.5	-0.05			
412 332 British Pk	220.0	+0.2	5.5	17.4	126.0	21.00	227.0	+0.05			
45 7 BrewDog Ltd	9.0	+0.5	1.0	1.00000	10.5	7.00	7.5	-0.05			
575 676 BrewDog	60.0	+0.5	1.0	1.00000	59.5	50.00	62.0	-0.05			
245 115 BrewDog	60.0	+0.5	1.0	1.00000	59.5	50.00	62.0	-0.05			
BANKS	-1.51%						FOOD PRODUCERS	-1.23%			
372 372 Balfour Beatty	1280.0	+0.2	3.2	124.00000	1280.0	124.00	1280.0	+0.05			
169 550 Balf	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
158 758 Balfour Beatty	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
164 824 Barratt Developments	1360.0	+0.3	3.2	124.00000	1360.0	124.00	1360.0	+0.05			
171 845 Barratt Developments	1360.0	+0.3	3.2	124.00000	1360.0	124.00	1360.0	+0.05			
172 877 Barratt Developments	1360.0	+0.3	3.2	124.00000	1360.0	124.00	1360.0	+0.05			
173 878 Barratt Developments	1360.0	+0.3	3.2	124.00000	1360.0	124.00	1360.0	+0.05			
124 894 Barratt Developments	1360.0	+0.3	3.2	124.00000	1360.0	124.00	1360.0	+0.05			
BREWERIES PUBS & RESTAURANTS	-2.11%						FOOD PROCESSORS	-1.23%			
177 881 Bass	820.0	+0.45	3.2	124.00000	820.0	78.00	820.0	+0.05			
14 425 Bells	92.0	+0.0	2.2	1.00000	92.0	80.00	92.0	+0.05			
145 426 Bells	92.0	+0.0	2.2	1.00000	92.0	80.00	92.0	+0.05			
144 427 Bells	92.0	+0.0	2.2	1.00000	92.0	80.00	92.0	+0.05			
123 335 Birrells	50.0	+0.5	1.5	1.00000	50.0	42.00	50.0	+0.05			
247 336 Birrells	50.0	+0.5	1.5	1.00000	50.0	42.00	50.0	+0.05			
119 337 Birrells	50.0	+0.5	1.5	1.00000	50.0	42.00	50.0	+0.05			
BREWERYS PUBS & RESTAURANTS	-2.11%						FOOD PROCESSORS	-1.23%			
178 882 Blue Chip	160.0	+0.2	3.2	124.00000	160.0	140.00	160.0	+0.05			
169 551 Blue	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
168 758 Blue Chip	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
167 878 Blue Chip	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
124 894 Blue Chip	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
BREWERIES PUBS & RESTAURANTS	-2.11%						FOOD PROCESSORS	-1.23%			
177 881 Blue Chip	160.0	+0.2	3.2	124.00000	160.0	140.00	160.0	+0.05			
14 425 Blue Chip	92.0	+0.0	2.2	1.00000	92.0	80.00	92.0	+0.05			
145 426 Blue Chip	92.0	+0.0	2.2	1.00000	92.0	80.00	92.0	+0.05			
144 427 Blue Chip	92.0	+0.0	2.2	1.00000	92.0	80.00	92.0	+0.05			
123 335 Birrells	50.0	+0.5	1.5	1.00000	50.0	42.00	50.0	+0.05			
247 336 Birrells	50.0	+0.5	1.5	1.00000	50.0	42.00	50.0	+0.05			
119 337 Birrells	50.0	+0.5	1.5	1.00000	50.0	42.00	50.0	+0.05			
BREWERIES PUBS & RESTAURANTS	-2.11%						FOOD PROCESSORS	-1.23%			
178 882 Birrells	160.0	+0.2	3.2	124.00000	160.0	140.00	160.0	+0.05			
169 551 Birrells	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
168 758 Birrells	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
167 878 Birrells	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
124 894 Birrells	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
BREWERYS PUBS & RESTAURANTS	-2.11%						FOOD PROCESSORS	-1.23%			
178 882 Boddingtons	160.0	+0.2	3.2	124.00000	160.0	140.00	160.0	+0.05			
169 551 Boddingtons	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
168 758 Boddingtons	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
167 878 Boddingtons	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
124 894 Boddingtons	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
BREWERYS PUBS & RESTAURANTS	-2.11%						FOOD PROCESSORS	-1.23%			
178 882 British Beer Co	160.0	+0.2	3.2	124.00000	160.0	140.00	160.0	+0.05			
169 551 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
168 758 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
167 878 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
124 894 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
BREWERYS PUBS & RESTAURANTS	-2.11%						FOOD PROCESSORS	-1.23%			
178 882 British Beer Co	160.0	+0.2	3.2	124.00000	160.0	140.00	160.0	+0.05			
169 551 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
168 758 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
167 878 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
124 894 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
BREWERYS PUBS & RESTAURANTS	-2.11%						FOOD PROCESSORS	-1.23%			
178 882 British Beer Co	160.0	+0.2	3.2	124.00000	160.0	140.00	160.0	+0.05			
169 551 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
168 758 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
167 878 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
124 894 British Beer Co	162.5	+0.5	2.0	1.00000	162.0	150.00	162.0	+0.05			
BREWERYS PUBS & RESTAURANTS	-2.11%						FOOD PROCESSORS	-1.23%			</

Bid talk brings 6,000 in reach

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

IT WAS back to basics yesterday, with takeover activity - real and rumoured - driving the market higher.

Defence, drugs, insurance and, once again, telecoms dominated the day's proceedings, helping Footsie put on 78.5 points to 5,958.2, its best level since shortly after the July 1998 peak of 6,179.

Vodafone's confirmation of its interest in the AirTouch Communications of the US sent another exhilarating surge through the telephone wires as speculators hunted for the next possible deal. In heavy trading Vodex charged 61.5p to 1,110.5p, a peak. Orange rose 33.5p to 828p and BT 49.5p to 988.5p.

Telewest Communications, with Warburg Dillon Read offering support, was the best-performing Footsie constituent, up 19.5p to 205p.

Cable & Wireless gained 22.5p to 778p and the seemingly irrepressible Colt Telecom managed an 84p jump to 1,037p.

Suggestions of a counter-

British Regional Air Lines, which has suffered a disastrous time since floating in the summer at 150p a share, could at last be attracting institutional support.

The shares, down to as low as 33p in October, gained altitude by 6.5p to 60p with it is thought, stockbroker Albert E. Stark lifting this year's profits forecast 25 per cent to £6m. In 1997 British Regional, now capitalised at only £38.7m, produced profits of £4.2m.

bid for Zeneca put drug shares on a high: Zeneca climbed 80p to 2,774p, and Glaxo Wellcome, everybody's favourite to barge into the proposed deal with Sweden's Astra, gained 104p to 2,233p. SmithKline Beecham, another possible interventionist, put on 33.5p to 877p.

General Electric Co, said to be in discussions with a range of defence groups, rose 22p to 555.5p, with Cazenove thought to be advocating a 600p target. The long-running defence power game has already thrown up an array of permutations with, at one time or another, most of the various groups married off to each other.

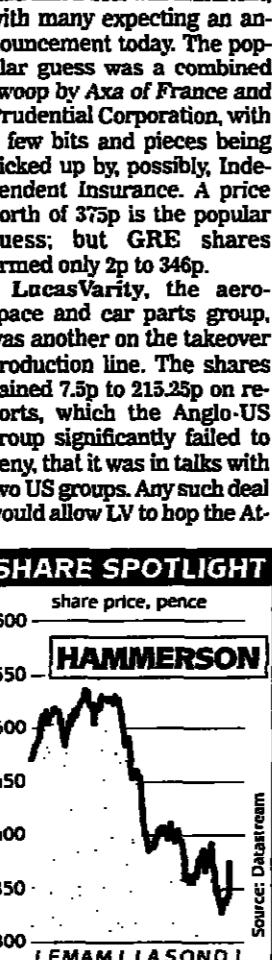
Current suggestions include GEC's Marconi arm merging with British Aerospace, 14p higher at 519p, although there is also speculation about a BAE deal with DaimlerChrysler. Speculation continues about GEC

linking with top US groups such as Lockheed Martin.

On the insurance pitch it was GRE, the old Guardian Royal Exchange, attracting attention. Once again it was said that a deal was imminent, with many expecting an announcement today. The popular guess was a combined swoop by AXA of France and Prudential Corporation, with a few bits and pieces being picked up by, possibly, Independent Insurance. A price north of 375p is the popular guess; but GRE shares firmed only 2p to 346p.

LucasVarity, the aerospace and car parts group, was another on the takeover production line. The shares gained 7.5p to 215.25p on reports, which the Anglo-US group significantly failed to deny, that it was in talks with two US groups. Any such deal would allow LV to the At-

share spotlight



lanic, a move institutional investors blocked last year.

BP Amoco was again the most traded share in the wake of the giant merger. With a 5.78 million recorded turnover, the price fell 8.5p to 916p.

Underperforming properties encouraged the euphoria, with CSFB, long-time bears of the sector, thought to have become more positive. ABN Amro was another believed to be more bullish about bricks and mortar. It was enough to lift Land Securities 29.5p to 800p and Hammerson 15.5p to 372p. Chelsfield gained 15.5p to 270p.

Although much of the action was concentrated on the

SEAG VOLUME: 962.6m
SEAG TRADES: 76,016

Wolves bid period extended

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

THE OFFER period for Wolverhampton & Dudley's £262m hostile bid for rival brewer Marston, Thompson & Everard, has been extended after Marston received acceptances from just 0.89 per cent of the share capital.

The deadline has been extended until 1pm on 29 January. The next key date is Friday which - as Day 39 under Takeover Panel rules - is the last day for Marston's final defence document.

Marston shares closed 2p higher at 289.5p, compared to the offer price of 283p. Marston shares closed a penny higher at 427.5p.

Marston has been fighting a rearguard action against the Wolves bid. It received a setback just before Christmas when Greene King, the Suffolk brewer which had been tipped as a possible White Knight, struck a

deal with Wolves under which it will buy a batch of over 100 pubs if the bid proves successful.

This follows an unsuccessful attempt by Marstons to raise £137m through the securitisation of its tenant pub estate. The move was blocked by shareholders who wanted more time to consider the Wolves bid.

Marstons wants to use the proceeds from the sale to concentrate on adding to its Pitcher & Piano chain of managed bars.

The deal leaves Pearson's CEO facing hefty debt as Britain enters a downturn."

Ms Wicks, considered by admirers as an "up and coming woman in the City", worked at the high-powered strategic consultancy Bain & Company before she joined Courtaulds in 1993.

"I went in for a cup of tea and stayed for seven years," Ms Wicks recalls. "I did not expect to be made finance director." She is not an accountant.

Ms Scardino convinced her

that the market for distance learning is about to enjoy explosive, global growth and that Pearson is well placed to benefit. Ms Wicks will report directly to her.

Ms Wicks has two other passions at the moment. "I'm a fanatic for travelling to cut-off places," she says, having just returned from Bhutan. And she is teaching herself the flute.

Emerging from the meeting, Mr Crucifixhank said to his side: "Why don't we try this toy town train they have down here?"

Yardley makes a fragrant contrast to another rather more mundane receivership now being completed by Mr Oldfield; that of Rosehaugh, the property development company formerly owned by Godfrey Bradman, which Mr Bradman used to build the Broadgate Centre in the City.

"SOME PEOPLE doze off in meetings (and who can blame them sometimes?)," says Jo Gardiner in her book "Flying Start", a guide to surviving the first day of your first proper job.

The book, to be published on 19 January by the Industrial Society, includes a list of characters to watch out for in meetings, including "the nodder", writes Ms Gardiner, "who spends most of the time in meetings looking interested/concerned/wise/involved and nodding a lot, apparently in support of what others are saying". She adds, however: "They rarely make any original contribution."

My favourite is "the sleeper".

She writes: "It may not seem particularly helpful and it's not to be recommended, but they could really feel the need to sleep (if they've got children or have been ill, for example)."

DON CRUCIXSHANK, chairman of the Government's Millennium Bug campaign and recently appointed to head its investigation into the banking industry, paid a pre-Christmas visit to Howard Davies at the Financial Services Authority, down in the wilds of Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

Emerging from the meeting, Mr Crucifixhank said to his side:

"Why don't we try this toy town train they have down here?"

In a series of separate deals, the perfumed duo sold the Yardley name to Wells, the German toiletries company, and the women's brands to Fine Fragrances & Cosmetics of the UK. These include Tweed, Parache, Lace, White Satin and Chique.

Mr Oldfield says he is in talks to sell Yardley's men's brands,

English Blazer and Gold.

"There's a huge market overseas for these brands," he enthuses.

COCOA, COFFEE, BARLEY, POTATOES, SOYA BEANS*

LIFTE FINANCIAL FUTURES AT 5.30PM

Brent Crude/Barrel/Gal/litre/tonne WTI Crude/Bbl/tonne Products/tonne

IPE Last* Cig 100 IPE Close 100 IPE Lag* Cig Spot CIF/NM Bar

Feb 10.8-21.1 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100

Mar 10.8-21.1 Feb 100 50.5-90 91.55 Mar 12.19 2.00 Murex 108.00

Apr 11.0-22.8 62.67 Mar 102 50.5-90 100.00 Apr 12.39 -0.24 Gasoil 101.50

May 12.55 -0.25 Fuel Oil 13.5% 15.50

6050 115.36 108.30 264 227 335 314 409 335

EQUITY AT 5.30PM

Brent Crude/Barrel/Gal/litre/tonne WTI Crude/Bbl/tonne Products/tonne

IPE Last* Cig 100 IPE Close 100 IPE Lag* Cig Spot CIF/NM Bar

Feb 10.8-21.1 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100

Mar 10.8-21.1 Feb 100 50.5-90 91.55 Mar 12.19 2.00 Murex 108.00

Apr 11.0-22.8 62.67 Mar 102 50.5-90 100.00 Apr 12.39 -0.24 Gasoil 101.50

May 12.55 -0.25 Fuel Oil 13.5% 15.50

6050 115.36 108.30 264 227 335 314 409 335

ENERGY AT 5.30PM

Brent Crude/Barrel/Gal/litre/tonne WTI Crude/Bbl/tonne Products/tonne

IPE Last* Cig 100 IPE Close 100 IPE Lag* Cig Spot CIF/NM Bar

Feb 10.8-21.1 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100

Mar 10.8-21.1 Feb 100 50.5-90 91.55 Mar 12.19 2.00 Murex 108.00

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IPE Last* Cig 100 IPE Close 100 IPE Lag* Cig Spot CIF/NM Bar

Feb 10.8-21.1 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100

Mar 10.8-21.1 Feb 100 50.5-90 91.55 Mar 12.19 2.00 Murex 1

18/MANAGED FUNDS

SPORT



Graham Bell, at his Henley home (above) and in action at the 1995 World Championships in Saalbach (below), is looking to find a Briton with downhill dash Robert Hallam



Bell's mountainous task to reinvent British skiing

IT IS NOT easy to take competitive skiing seriously in Britain. There is something lacking in the sport's presentation. The image is quite wrong. We think of snow and skis and we think of documentaries of first-timers doing the splits and burying their faces on nursery slopes. We think of snooty chalet girls emptying the bins at a lodge and then filling themselves with alcohol. We think, primarily, of the ski-jumper Eddie Edwards. It's a long way back to gravitas from there.

The man charged with paring the pistes and leading us into a respected land is at least another alpine figure of whom most have heard. Graham Bell (as in Martin and Graham Bell) has recently been appointed as the British Ski & Snowboard Federation's director of performance. It might be quite a job, but at least his business cards will be big and impressive.

Bell is an unlikely administrator; 33 yesterday and possessing a pre-Raphaelite haircut. His appointment is part of the sweep by a new broom. "The old fogies have been cleared out of British skiing," he says. "The board has changed from the amateurs who were doing it for the love of the sport, some of whom were good with their time and effort, but the whole thing needed a change."

Graham Bell has competed at five winter Olympics, a record for any British athlete. He was British No 1 for three years before his recent retirement. Now he has to produce a figure to better his achievements. As a task it is, in more than one sense, mountainous.

Last year the BSSF received £200,000 of funding from the Sports Council plus another £180,000 from sponsorship and commercial activities. Much of that was provided by the properties company British Land, which is clearly taking a long-term view in return for the investment. By comparison, the Swiss receive £3.1m, France £2m and mighty Slovenia £1.2m. The figure for Austria is off the map.

"We can't compare ourselves with the Austrians or the Swiss," Bell says. "We're not even the equivalent of a small region in Austria. We're more like a village."

In fact, it might even be a little worse than that because all our talented skiers are dotted around all over the place and not in a village training and competing with one

A veteran of five winter Olympics is charged with burying the sport's Eddie the Eagle image. By Richard Edmondson

another, bringing each other on. But miracles can happen."

Bell's initial contract is for six months when six years might seem more appropriate. His first major obligation comes on Saturday, when he monitors the beginning of the National Ski Championships at Tignes, one of France's more charming resorts, denuded of woodland and consequently of character.

The resort beneath the glacier of Grand Motta, one of Savoie's highest peaks, regularly plays host to the

a top senior with the chance of an Olympic medal.

"One day we'll have one, maybe two, incredibly talented skiers coming along and we need to have the system in place to look after them. We can't screw it up."

As he snowploughs this difficult furrow, Bell has in mind the fecund ground for locating a champion. It is pretty much the area he came from himself, parents more with great designs for their offspring than great wealth. The new director has

"We've had a few racers on the team with incredibly wealthy parents but they tend not to do as well as children of middle-income parents who give total support. There is so much of a struggle and so much of a commitment that you usually find that the really well-off kids just say 'sod it, I'm off to do something a little more fun.'

As he goes about this business Graham Bell is forever haunted by a spectre. It wears thick glasses and falling out of the sky. Eddie

huge mistake made by the British Ski Federation," Bell says. "They didn't set any qualifying level for ski jumping at Calgary. That's why he got there. The alpine and cross-country skiers had to reach a certain standard but he didn't. It should never have happened."

But it happened, and Graham Bell can change the profile of British skiing only by locating a different sort of headline-maker. "The first thing I have to do is talent-identification - to find out where our real talents," he says.

"We've got about half a dozen realistic chances of a top 10 World Cup placing. And you can't chart it much better than that in skiing, because if you have the potential to get in the top 10 you have the potential to win."

"It's a very variable sport. It's unpredictable. You can get a particularly good pair of skis or you can start in an area of the field where a tailwind suddenly picks up or the sun comes out for you and instantly you're one of half a dozen people who have an advantage."

"That can be enough to set off a whole chain of events. You get a good result, your confidence improves and people start to give you a better pair of skis. It can all spiral upwards very quickly. To have a chance of getting into the top 10 of World Cup skiers you have to have started skiing by seven at the latest (and that means years old as opposed to o'clock)."

"You have to have started racing aged 10. By 13 you can tell who has got the talent and by 15 you can put the safe bets on about who is going to be a good competition skier."

"But we're going to need coaches for these people and coaching is another problem I have to address. How do you get British coaches to the level of their European counterparts? We can't always survive on buying Austrian coaches, especially as you lose them as soon as they start doing a very good job. That's the catch-22."

"In the history of British skiing there are about 10 occasions when a coach has been whisked off by the Austrian ski federation waving a cheque book."

They don't wave a cheque book in British skiing, it's more likely to be the white flag. Graham Bell has taken on an Everest, but at least when it comes to communications he has the right name.



'I have to make sure there is a clear pathway for a talented 10 or 11-year-old to establish themselves as a top senior. One day we'll have one, maybe two. We can't screw it up'

British piste-basher; the recreation skier winding wildly down the open snowfields. But, it may be, that one day such a setting will see a young British talent weaving through the savannah of joyriders.

"We have got this huge participation behind us with almost half a million skiers going abroad from Britain each year," Bell says. "I have to make sure there is a clear pathway for a talented 10 or 11-year-old skier to establish themselves as

found that the Camillas and Ruperts of the sport can get distracted by the attractions of a hunt ball."

"A lot of our skiers are the product of dedicated parents," he says. "People talk about how parents get too involved and pushy, but in skiing it's the only way."

"My mother, particularly, did everything she could to help us and if that meant getting us up for a morning jog then that's what she would do. It's got to be done."

Edwards finished 58th out of 58 ski-jumping at the 1988 winter Olympics in Calgary and received more publicity than the winner. This may have upset the north Americans and their finely honed sense of irony, but it also exposed another nation's rather odd character trait. Eddie the Eagle returned to Britain the conquering hero, a charming clown more feted than any victor would have been.

"Eddie Edwards was a huge,

MacArthur in a hurry to go places

New faces for 1999: A determined talent is single-handedly taking the sailing world by storm. By Stuart Alexander

ON HER way to her retired teacher parents' home in Whitstable at Christmas, Ellen MacArthur groaned as the windscreen wipers on her car failed. "It was tipping it down and I had to be at a television interview," she said. "so I removed the cover under the bonnet, fished around, found the missing nut, and fixed it. It took half an hour, but most people would have called out the AA. I just thrive on problems."

The 22 year old, who is making a meteoric impact on British sailing, can sometimes be breathtakingly simplistic in her own self-belief. When she says you can do anything if you put your mind to it the accompanying facial expression is not one hoping for agreement but almost irritated that there should be any doubt.

There was no doubt in her mind when she started saving her school lunch money at the age of eight to save up for a boat, the first of which was an eight-foot dinghy. Nor when she bought a 17-foot cabin cruiser, or the 21-foot Corrib, in which she sailed single-handed round Britain at the age of 18. In the same year she had won the Young Sailor of the Year award for gaining both her Yachtmaster's and Yacht Instructor's certificates, and Derbyshire is a long way from the sea.

Nor is there any doubt in her mind that she will be on the start line in November next year for the French-organised single-handed non-stop round the world race, the Vendee Globe. She has been in a hurry putting the sort of curriculum vitae together that will convince a major sponsor to build her a new, 60-foot yacht of the type now being campaigned by Mike Golding in the Around Alone Race, and which he will also be sailing in that race. MacArthur even went to work for the same Cherbourg boat builder just so she would be better informed.

And not for the first time. She was the only woman shopfloor worker at Bowman Yachts on England's south coast, and lived in her 21-footer with intermittent power and icy decks, on the nearby pontoon so she could use the office at night to send out "thousands" of sponsorship proposals.

Life then improved with a move to a portable office in a Hamble boat yard, working on her now-business partner's Mini-Transat 21-foot racing boat, continuing her search for support for her own similar project, and crewing on a series of cross-Channel races on summer weekends.

That led to an invitation to help bring a 60-footer back across the Atlantic. "I was really happy, I didn't want it to stop when we reached France," she says. But stop it did, as she flew back across the Atlantic to crew for Vittorio Malinga in the Quebec to St Malo Race. And she then stood still just long enough to arrange to jump on to a similar racing 50-footer belonging to the Italian Giovanni Soldini and another delivery trip to Italy.

The pace then picked up, with her own Mini-Transat, helped by some support from her grandmother's trust fund, a two-handed Round Britain Race, and then the Route du Rhum single-hander to Guadeloupe in November.

That was with the support of the B&Q Woolworths Kingfisher Group, which also just happens to be in the process of buying the French company Castorama and whose chief executive, Sir Geoff Mulcahy, owns two large yachts. "I have been very busy, it's been very hard, and it's taken a lot out of me, but this year has worked out absolutely just brilliantly," she says.

At the moment the wiser than her years Ellen MacArthur is looking no more than two years ahead. But a much longer glittering career beckons.



Ellen MacArthur sets out at the start of the Route du Rhum single-handed race last November Peter Bentley

TOMORROW

BOB CHAMPION, GRAND NATIONAL WINNER AND CANCER SURVIVOR, CLOSES THE STABLE DOOR FOR THE LAST TIME

Stewart shows renaissance quality

Derek Pringle, Cricket Correspondent, argues that despite a 3-1 Ashes defeat, the England captain has emerged with credit for a rediscovered fighting spirit

TWO DIFFERENT teams toured Australia this winter. But if one lost the main prize and most of its self-respect mid-way through December, the other won a Test match and many admirers back over the festive season. Defeat, though, in the obsessive world of accountability, is still a debit and certain people are bound to demand a scapegoat or two to be sacrificed for the good of English cricket.

David Lloyd, the team's coach, has recently come under pressure and it was interesting that Alec Stewart stood by him during his end-of-series speech. It was a sentiment he confirmed later in the post-match press conference.

"David has done a tremendous job as coach. We are probably the best-prepared England side there has ever been. But once we cross the white line, then it's down to the 11 players that go out there. The coach can't do any more. He's one of the top people in his job, and I hope he continues to do it."

Stewart has a point and England's problems on this trip have stemmed from bad habits accruing from a bad system rather than a bad coach. Lloyd has his faults – a county cricketer's tendency to whinge over injustice being one of them – but he still has energy and ideas in a job that tends to sap both.

But what is it about England's cricket that makes it as fragile as bone china one minute and as robust as Armitage Shanks the next? Plainly it is not a lack of talent, for on the evidence of the final two Tests, England have plenty.

By a process of elimination, consistency – or lack of it – must be the culprit. Australians tend to be competitive from the cradle. Being nurtured in a tough environment tends to give those who make it an innate self-belief, especially in cricket.

By contrast, English players and coaches seek consistency through a punishing work ethic. This breeds guilt rather than adventure, and it was only when caution was cast aside that England began to push and hurry Australia into mistakes.

Even so, too many errors were made to deserve parity, let alone anything more meaningful. Catches, crucial against aggressive teams like Australia who attack constantly, were dropped early on as if they were hot spuds. Once on the floor, they quickly cooled, a bit like England's cricket at that stage.

None, however, were more costly than the reprieves given to Steve Waugh and Ian Healy during the first Test in Brisbane. The let-offs may have cost England at least 200 runs but the scars went deeper. Although a timely tropical storm prevented them from winning, Australia took away an unshakeable belief in their dominance – one that would not have been there had England controlled the game as they should.



Victor and vanquished: Mark Taylor (right) and Alec Stewart AP

either way went to us quite easily. In the last two that wasn't the case, and that's the sort of cricket England will have to play in the future if they want to beat us.

"In the field I thought Ramprakash and Hussain were outstanding and that is the sort of thing that sparks teams."

One of the key problems was the resounding failure of Michael Atherton. Although he did not enjoy much fortune with either his bat or the umpiring decisions, it was not until the final innings of the series that England's opening partnership passed 50. The new ball is important in Australia and if big scores are to be made, I think it is not to be beaten. Far too often Glenn McGrath was allowed to bowl at the middle order with shine still on the ball.

Atherton's back has now become an issue on almost a daily basis. As most Tests are scheduled for five days, he can probably never quite guarantee his fitness for an entire match. Whether his poor form was down to his back or McGrath will probably never be known; simply speaking, this was his worst series ever. Ironically his nadir, when he failed to score a single run or take a single catch

in either innings, coincided with England's stirring win in Melbourne.

Like Graham Thorpe, whose runs were also badly missed, Atherton's immediate future must be uncertain. The opportunity for several months' rest will give him ample time to consider what is best.

England's bowling, felt by many to be their weak link at the outset of the tour actually proved competitive throughout. Only twice, in the second innings at Brisbane and also in Adelaide, were they below par.

Led by Darren Gough, who had to endure a spate of dropped catches before he began to get his just reward, the emergence of Dean Headley was the real find for England.

It was a mantle due in part to Gough staying fit for the whole rubber, an experience that left him jaded, especially after two sets of back-to-back Tests. His hat-trick in the final Test was a gem, but it could still not inspire him.

Like Peter Such, who took 11 wickets in two Tests, Alan Mullally had his moments and was generally steady. And yet it was Headley, stirred into action during the marathon last session in Melbourne where he took 6 for 50, who looked the most dangerous.

In his three Tests the fast bowler took 19 wickets, an effort that, if extrapolated through all five matches, would have made him the highest wicket-taker in the series. Instead that accolade went to Stuart MacGill, with 27 victims. Had they not won without one at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, it was a tally that might well have exposed England's part-time use of a front-line spinner. As it was, MacGill just confirmed the long-held view that English batsmen struggle against decent wrist-spin.

There is a case for compassion, however, and had England not been so easily overcome by the extreme conditions of Adelaide and Perth, or lost the toss on five consecutive occasions, the series' might have ended differently.

The juxtaposition of those two matches meant that England forfeited the Ashes after just three Tests. Yet with the main prize gone, they rallied, producing some of the most passionate and persuasive cricket seen by an England team Down Under in recent times.

Alec Stewart is not a technician but the players responded to him well. Australia can break teams who lose early on, and he must take much of the credit for his team's belated renaissance.

Stewart, along with his brother-in-law, Mark Butcher, were the only centurions for England in the series. Their two hundreds, as compared with the eight scored by the Aussies, suggests an imbalance of sorts. The big question is, when will England be able to redress it?



Graeme Hick succumbs to the wrist-spin of Stuart MacGill, who finished the series as the leading wicket-taker with 27 victims Empics

Honour has been salvaged, but hard work starts here

IT WAS never realistic to have expected an England victory on this fourth morning. The pitch was turning square, Australia had three excellent spinners, including two leg spinners, and England would have needed one, if not two, batsmen to have played as Michael Slater had done so memorably on Sunday unless Australia were to have thrown it away, but that was not an option worth considering.

Like Melbourne before it, this was a superb game of cricket and in the past 10 days in Australia, the cause of Test cricket has received a welcome and important boost. After playing with a sad hopelessness for three Test matches, England suddenly picked themselves up and began to sort out their thinking.

The side acquired an intensity about its performance, a mental toughness and a surprising degree of self-belief considering what had gone on before. The Australians found, most unexpectedly, that they had to roll up their sleeves, mark out their long runs and get down to it. For three days in Melbourne and four at the Sydney Cricket Ground, England fought like tigers.

In the end, they were unable to win but had salvaged a great deal of honour. The danger is

now that those in charge will be tempted to sit back and to congratulate themselves on a job well done without realising that this is where the hard work has to begin.

They will rue their luck. Alec Stewart lost all five tosses and had they won this last one in Sydney they would have been even harder to beat. Then there was the run out of Michael Slater, which the third umpire unreasonably shirked when the batsman had made 35 of his eventual 123 and Dean Headley had thrown his stumps down from long-on.

One can only lodge a protest, too, against a pitch on which the winning of the toss provided a passport to victory, and it was impossible to escape this conclusion at the SCG. England did not help themselves by choosing to bat, and not Alan Mullally, whose control had been so admirable in Melbourne? I would give anything to know what goes on in the minds of the brain trust which presides over England's cricket in their dressing-room.

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We know they have never heard about the importance of playing for singles as an integral part of the process of building a big score, because the batsmen themselves are clearly unaware of it, even though they could have picked up a tip or two from the Waughs.

Why too, was Alex Tudor

Some of the field placings, particularly for the off-spin of Peter Such, were surprising to say the least. One can only wonder if these things are ever discussed behind the scenes and what all those managers and coaches and support personnel are up to.

But by the end England had shown that the players themselves were learning. The batsmen may not have shown quite the singleness of purpose of the Waughs, who are both remarkable cricketers. The bowlers, on the other hand, are definitely getting there. In these last two games they gave nothing away: they attacked the batsmen all the time and looked distinctly Australian in their approach.

One is not being churlish raising these points of criticism but this England side has at last shown that they have some material to work with, which was hardly the case after being two Tests down following Adelaide.

Now, after these last two matches, everyone is feeling better but this is no reason to celebrate. What has happened is a beginning and not an end, and there is a huge amount of work which remains to be done.

The most urgent requirement is for those in charge of England to be certain that they have the right people giving off the right signals inside the dressing room. The powers that be must not be ashamed to steal Australia's clothes because they, more than any other team in world, seem to know exactly where they are heading and have the results to prove it.



England players applaud the Barmy Army at the end of the Sydney Test Reuters

ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA TEST SERIES AVERAGES

	TEST BATTING	ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA
M	NO Runs HS Ave 100s 50s C S	M Runs HS Ave 100s 50s C S	M Runs HS Ave 100s 50s C S
M Rampakash	5 10 2 379 69 47.37 0 0 4 5 0	M Rampakash	5 10 2 379 69 45.22 0 0 4 5 0
M Hussain	5 10 1 407 89 45.22 0 0 4 5 0	M Hussain	5 10 1 407 87 43.00 0 0 4 5 0
G P Thorpe	1 2 0 86 77 43.00 0 0 1 2 0	G P Thorpe	1 2 0 86 77 43.00 0 0 1 2 0
A J Stewart	5 10 1 316 107 35.11 1 0 2 11 0	A J Stewart	5 10 1 316 107 35.11 1 0 2 11 0
I D Gough	5 10 2 27 10 2 0 0 0 0 0 0	I D Gough	5 10 2 27 10 2 0 0 0 0 0 0
M A Butcher	5 10 0 259 116 25.90 0 0 0 0 0	M A Butcher	5 10 0 259 116 25.90 0 0 0 0 0
G A Hick	5 10 0 201 68 25.62 0 0 2 11 0	G A Hick	5 10 0 201 68 25.62 0 0 2 11 0
J P Crowley	5 6 0 86 44 14.33 0 0 0 0 0	J P Crowley	5 6 0 86 44 14.33 0 0 0 0 0
M A Atherton	5 8 0 110 41 15.75 0 0 0 0 0	M A Atherton	5 8 0 110 41 15.75 0 0 0 0 0
D G Evans	5 10 1 38 21 15.00 0 0 0 0 0	D G Evans	5 10 1 38 21 15.00 0 0 0 0 0
A J Tait	5 2 0 35 18* 11.66 0 0 0 0 0	A J Tait	5 2 0 35 18* 11.66 0 0 0 0 0
A R C Fraser	5 3 2 32 17* 8.00 0 0 0 0 0	A R C Fraser	5 3 2 32 17* 8.00 0 0 0 0 0
W K Hagg	5 4 0 30 15 7.50 0 0 0 0 0	W K Hagg	5 4 0 30 15 7.50 0 0 0 0 0
D W Headley	5 6 0 41 16 6.63 0 0 0 0 0	D W Headley	5 6 0 41 16 6.63 0 0 0 0 0
D G Gough	5 9 0 41 12 5.27 0 0 0 0 0	D G Gough	5 9 0 41 12 5.27 0 0 0 0 0
R M Henry	5 10 0 20 16 3.55 0 0 0 0 0	R M Henry	5 10 0 20 16 3.55 0 0 0 0 0
P M Such	5 4 1 2 0 0.66 0 0 0 0 0	P M Such	5 4 1 2 0 0.66 0 0 0 0 0

ENGLAND'S TOUR AVERAGES

	BATTING	ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA
M	Runs HS Ave SW 10W Best	M Runs HS Ave SW 10W Best	M Runs HS Ave SW 10W Best
G P Thorpe	121.3 20 423 19 22.26 1 0 0 2 0	G P Thorpe	121.3 20 423 19 22.26 1 0 0 2 0
M Rampakash	42.2 6 180 7 25.71 0 0 0 4 0	M Rampakash	42.2 6 180 7 25.71 0 0 0 4 0
M Hussain	46.5 6 180 7 25.71 0 0 0 4 0	M Hussain	46.5 6 180 7 25.71 0 0 0 4 0
C A Hick	157.3 46 364 12 35.33 0 0 0 5 0	C A Hick	157.3 46 364 12 35.33 0 0 0 5 0
D G Gough	201.3 39 687 21 52.71 1 0 0 3 0	D G Gough	201.3 39 687 21 52.71 1 0 0 3 0
D G Cork	57.0 11 165 4 41.28 0 0 0 2 0	D G Cork	57.0 11 165 4 41.28 0 0 0 2 0
A R C Fraser	63.0 8 229 4 57.25 0 0 0 2 0	A R C Fraser	63.0 8 229 4 57.25 0 0 0 2 0
D W Headley	43.0 9 126 2 33.00 0 0 0 1 0	D W Headley	43.0 9 126 2 33.00 0 0 0 1 0
M A Butcher	54.0 9 135 1 15.00 0 0 0 1 0	M A Butcher	54.0 9 135 1 15.00 0 0 0 1 0
G A Hick	1.0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	G A Hick	1.0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

* denotes not out

** denotes not out

SPORT

BELL TACKLES SLIPPERY SLOPES P19 • LARA'S GLOOMY THEME P23

Fifth Test: Spinners force collapse and Ashes defeat yet Stewart's men earn respect for a courageous performance

MacGill turns England nemesis

FOR THREE days this Sydney Test refused to lay down and die. When it finally did, the end was hastened, as it so often is with Alec Stewart's side, with a batting collapse. For once, the subsidence was understandable, and with the ball turning alarmingly, Stuart MacGill took 7 for 50, to give Australia victory and a well-deserved 3-1 win in the Ashes series.

Starting the day at 104 for 2, and needing 186 for a remarkable victory, England were all out 20 minutes after lunch; their last eight wickets falling for 88 runs. It may not have been the close ending many had hoped for, but Australia's victory by 98 runs, with a little over four and a half sessions to spare, was about par for the conditions. This season the SCG has been a spinner's paradise and few teams batting last could have realistically expected to make more than 200.

"Once we lost the toss," said Stewart, "we always knew we were going to be up against it, especially against their three spinners. And it proved too much for us. At the start, we backed ourselves to get the 180 odd runs, but after losing two early wickets, we collapsed."

Early finishes have been a feature of this series, but with the riveting nature of the cricket here, no one was complaining. Over the four days 145,000 people came to the watch this thrilling match. Unless too much strong drink is consumed in the aftermath, none will forget, in a hurry and for once the England players could accept defeat with their heads high, something they could not have done at Adelaide.

Of course, they went into this match a spinner light, which is a bit like a golfer going into a deep greenside bunker without a sand wedge. Perhaps they felt that playing Ashley Giles, selected for the one-day side only, would have left them open to ridicule had it backfired.

The omission left Peter Such with a lone battle to fight, though one he rose to well, despite the absence of a left-arm paceman (a tactic on which England's selectors justified the selection of two off-spinners in the tour party) to create some early rough.

Generally though, England acquitted themselves well. In

By DEREK PRINGLE
in Sydney

Australia 322 & 184
England 220 & 188

Australia win the match by 98 runs and the Test series 3-1

trying circumstances, Stewart's men cannot have played with any more passion than they did here after losing a crucial toss.

At the post-match press conference, Mark Taylor admitted as much, pointing out that there was an enhanced performance from England. "The most satisfying moment in the series was this game," Taylor said. "We got a big scare in Melbourne. Everything was going along beautifully until then."

"If anything I felt England played even better here than in Melbourne," he said. "They knew they had a sniff and they came out hard. They gave it everything in the field as well as with the ball and bat. That still came out 90 odd runs short shows me that we've got a good side in that changing room."

He can say that again, and any potential upset England had in mind disappeared fairly quickly in the morning session when they lost Mark Ramprakash and Graeme Hick in the space of five overs.

With the ball having lost its hardness, runs became far harder to come by. Indeed Ramprakash, having failed to add to his overnight score of 14, became largely inert and it was his attempt to change that, with an injudicious cut shot off Glenn McGrath, that cost his wicket.

Against Australia these days, one man's mistake seems to be another's world record and Taylor's catch, low enough at first slip to require confirmation from the umpire at square leg, was his 157th in Tests. Afterwards he admitted that his poor batting form had led him to wear his baggy green cap.

Thereafter, only Nasser Hussain, with another fighting half-century, and Dean Headley, with some lusty blows, held up the victory parade for any length of time. In fact, when Hussain went even the Barmy Army knew the game was up. For a while the singing stopped, as MacGill brought England finally to their knees.

Only John Crawley, given out lbw padding up to Colin Miller from around the wicket, could have had any complaint, though. Such's dismissal, caught and bowled by MacGill after the No 11 had crashed a long hop into Michael Slater's heel at silly point, was bizarre.

Considering MacGill's success in the first innings, it was interesting that Taylor had first called on Shane Warne. But if the man with 315 Test wickets to his name was the obvious choice, it was MacGill, the newcomer, who stamped his authority on the match with another superb performance.

Four years ago, MacGill was



The England captain Alex Stewart (third from left) reflects on another series defeat along with Ramprakash, Hussain, Gough, Fraser and Tudor yesterday Allsport

a powerful player of spin, he looked incapable of scoring and his demise at noon, bowled round the legs trying to sweep MacGill, looked like a man fighting rigor mortis.

Hussain from around the wicket, had already had any complaint, though. Such's dismissal, caught and bowled by MacGill after the No 11 had crashed a long hop into Michael Slater's heel at silly point, was bizarre.

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Four years ago, MacGill was one of England's net bowlers;

here he was their nemesis. In the interim England's batsmen have become no better at coping with a turning ball, which, considering they do not see many wrist spinners is not all that surprising.

Before this series MacGill, a big spinner of the ball, was felt by many as being too excitable to bowl wrist-spin at Test level.

Yet as his tally has grown - he finished the series with 27 wickets, the highest on either side - so has his confidence.

"He gets better every time he plays," ventured Taylor. "He used to bowl a bad ball every over. Now it's only every two or three overs."

MacGill was also made man of the match, his 12-107 in the interim England's batsmen have become no better at coping with a turning ball, which, considering they do not see many wrist spinners is not all that surprising.

Normally I'd be uncontrollable if I got seven wickets in a grade match for North Sydney," MacGill said. "God knows what will happen now I've taken them at the SCG in an Ashes Test and helped win the series."

Henry Blofeld,

Tour and Test Averages,
more cricket, page 22

SYDNEY SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA – First Innings		222 (M E Waugh 121, S R Waugh 96; D W Headley 4-62)
ENGLAND – First Innings		220 (S C G MacGill 5-57)
AUSTRALIA – Second Innings		184 (M E Waugh 123; P M Such 5-81); J Slater 104; 104 for 2)
ENGLAND – Second Innings		(Overnight: 104 for 2) N Hussain c and b MacGill 53 170 min. 131 balls. 2 fours M R Ramprakash c Gough 5 b MacGill 14 60 min. 46 balls. 1 four G A Hick b MacGill 7 35 min. 25 balls. 1 four J P Gough c and b Miller 5 21 min. 14 balls H K Healy c Healy b MacGill 3 10 min. 10 balls A J Tudor b MacGill 3 10 min. 21 balls D W Headley c Healy b MacGill 16 25 min. 23 balls. 2 fours
Bowling:		M Gough 10-1-40-1 (nb3) 21 min. 16 balls. 1 four P M Such c and b MacGill 2 1 min. 1 nb3 Eazza (nb5/w1 nb3) 9 Total (269 min. 66.1 overs) 158 Fall (cont): 3-110 (Ramprakash), 4-131 (Hick), 5-150 (Crawley), 6-157 (Healy), 7-162 (Hussain), 8-175 (Tudor), 9-180 (Headley), 10-188 (Waugh) Bowling: M Gough 10-1-40-1 (nb3) 14-0-26-0, 6-1-14-1; N Hussain 17-1-50-1 (6-1-19-0). 3-0-7-0. B 1-1; M Gough 20-1-4-50-7 (w1) 18-2-31-1 (2-1-3-1). 4-0-12-0. Healy 19-3-63-1 (11-3-1). 4-0-12-0. Progress: Fourth day: 156; 206 min. 49.5 overs. Lunch: 175-7; (Tudor 3, Headley 12) 60 overs. Innings closed: 2.03 hrs. Hussain 50: 152 min. 124 balls, 2 fours. Umpires: R S Dunne and D B Hair. AUSTRALIA WON BY 98 RUNS AND SERIES 3-1

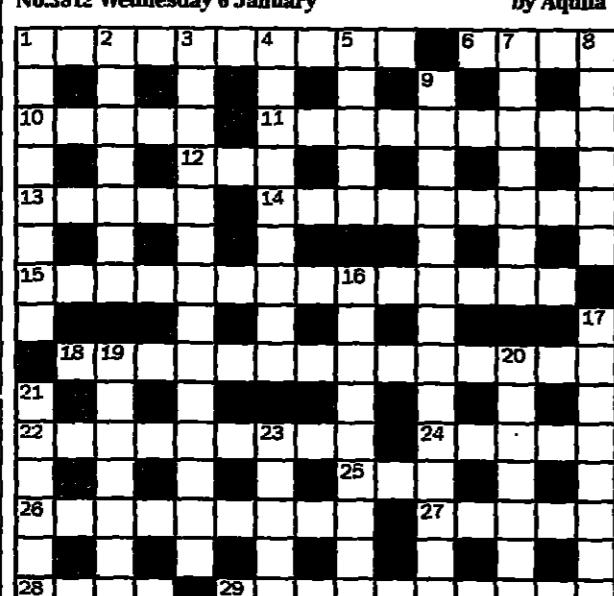
Compiled by Jo King

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3812 Wednesday 6 January

by Aquila

Today's Solution



- ACROSS**
- Flabbergasts in silent institutes (10)
 - Just show (4)
 - One who has remedies for a smoker (5)
 - At speed in vehicles with hard tops (9)
 - Sand bank from which people drive off (3)
 - Go out, dressed in gold, for so long (5)
 - Broken window, we hear, as in clergyman's office (9)
 - Emma has titanic struggle with wranglers in Cambridge (14)
 - Wild pansy to cherish whilst pottering (4-2-8)
 - Roger Hoope could be short of energy, but his work is on time (9)
 - BBC does not begin to loosen up (5)
 - A marine branch of the forces (3)
 - Explain what helps to make winter pretty (9)
 - Wodehouse's little game of chance? (5)
 - Kills ambitions (4)
 - Contemplates terminal near Enfield (7,3)
 - Protests loudly against moving of decimals (8)
 - Revolutionary big hit in centre going up (7)
 - Bank officials supporting lot of diviners (7-7)
 - Acrobatic ace, in turn, up in the air (9)
 - Rustic rolling endlessly (5)

- DOWN**
- Extraordinary caution needed where lots of people are knocked down (7)
 - Returns with final score (6)
 - Five to two, say, on dice? (6)
 - Indian, not opening, assembles as "hardened" (9)
 - Body-building compound for a space-traveler (8)
 - Unit of magnetic field strength around E. Dorset (7)
 - Understanding French (7)
 - In north, river is the place to grow rich (6)
 - Producing dress-ring, she sought no company (5)

NOTTINGHAM FOREST had already offered Ron Atkinson the manager's job at the City Ground before telling Dave Bassett he was sacked, it emerged last night.

Bassett, who had been in charge for 22 months, was dismissed yesterday morning as a result of Forest's 17-match run without a Premiership win and their exit from the FA Cup at the hands of Portsmouth on Saturday. He had been forewarned of his fate when he read the newspapers at home, but was not told officially until he arrived to take training.

The heavy-handed way in which his departure was handled provoked fury from the 54-year-old former Wimbledon and Sheffield United manager, even before Atkinson - on holiday in the Caribbean - admitted he had already been sacked for out for the job.

Phil Soar, the Forest chief executive, said yesterday that he was unaware of any contact between the club and the former Aston Villa and Sheffield Wednesday manager, although he confirmed Atkinson was a candidate. However, Atkinson spoke to Central Television last night: "I was contacted on Monday. I said I would think about their offer and let them know within the week."

Bassett was scathing in his criticism of Forest's board of directors, branding them "rude and undignified". Bassett read of his impending dismissal in a

FOOTBALL

By JON CULLEY

tabloid newspaper before he left his Sheffield home and heard the news confirmed on the radio. Only after he had arrived at the ground was he taken to one side by Soar and informed of the decision.

"When you get the sack it is always sad, but it is part and parcel of football," Bassett said. "I'm more upset about the way it has been done. I think the club have done it in an undignified manner. To read on the back pages that you are going to get the sack today and then it actually becomes a reality is not my way of doing business. In fact, it is a rather rude way of doing business. That disappoints me more than anything else."

"You can contrast it with when I got the sack from Elton John at Watford. On that occasion, we sorted the situation out, agreeing that while we were both upset, we realised why it had to happen. Then we had a glass of champagne and we remain friends."

Earlier, Soar had formally announced Bassett's departure by reading from what appeared to be the wrong club statement, having to correct himself after initially declaring that the parting of the ways had been "by mutual consent". Soar said that the board wished "sincerely to thank Dave for everything he has achieved with the club in the past two years."



Adams, the assistant manager, will take temporary charge. Bassett joined Forest 22 months ago shortly after Soar, in partnership with the former Tottenham chairman Irving Scholar and the property developer Nigel Way, had completed a takeover of the formerly committee-run club. Initially, Bassett became the general manager, but he assumed full control in May

of that year, too late to prevent relegation to the First Division.

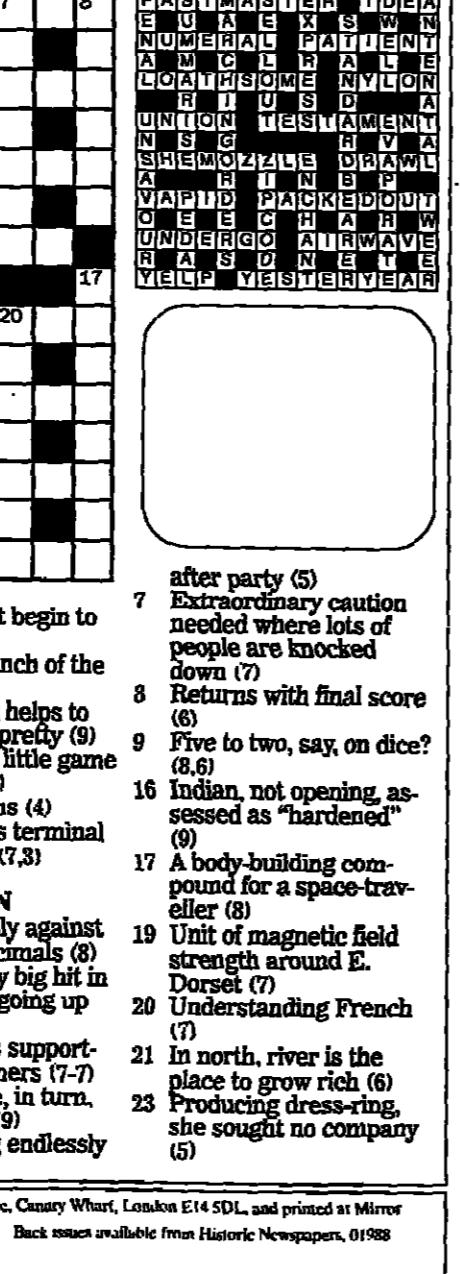
However, the following season Forest won the First Division championship, mainly thanks to 29 goals scored by the Dutch striker Pierre van Hoofdonk.

Forest have struggled to hold their own back in the Premiership, hampered by the sale of key players Kevin Campbell and Colin Cooper and more significantly by the one-man strike staged by Van Hoofdonk, who stayed away for three months in protest at what he saw as a lack of ambition on the board's part. After winning two of their opening three matches, against Coventry and Southampton, Forest have not managed another victory, establishing a Premiership record of 17 matches without a win.

Whether a new manager can turn Forest's fortunes around in the 18 matches left remains to be seen. But Geoff Thomas, the former England midfielder Bassett signed from Wolves, expressed doubts. "The way the lads have performed in some of the recent games - with the 2-2 draw against Aston Villa a good example - suggests there is not a lot wrong," he said.

"But confidence is very fragile. It may be that a new man could give the team a lift, but Dave Bassett is one of the best motivators in the game and if he couldn't get any more out of the lads, you wonder who can." Bassett the victim, page 23

Atkinson offered Forest job



Dave Bassett in grim mood at Forest yesterday Empics

The historic euro

Sir: The great event of the New Year is the advent of the euro. As yet, the euro exists only electronically, as befits the dawn of the electronic age. This is an unparalleled venture, for eleven nations of Europe to share a common currency – perhaps of great historic significance, depending on whether the move can be sustained.

The UK stands on the sidelines, hoping in some measure to share the benefits, yet not to join. Eventually, the UK will have to join, or else remain a poor off-shore island. Others will then control the conditions for our joining.

It is true that economic interests and political strategies have motivated this revolutionary change. Yet there is a visionary element. So frequently in past times – not least in this dying century – the nations have been at war with one another; certainly national interests and differences will not die, but this unification does promise to guarantee peace. It will in future be too expensive for one European country to fight another.

With the spread of the electronic network, it is conceivable that there may one day be a global currency.

As an Englishman, I find a certain difficulty in thinking of myself as "British". I have no difficulty in thinking of myself as European. Over the past half-century my books have been translated into many European languages and published in many European capitals.

As soon as my children were portable, my wife and I took them far afield, to France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Scandinavia. We had no difficulties, only education and education. How are we not Europeans?

Some of our national hesitation is due to xenophobia. Some to our links with the USA. But if we were a properly accredited member of the EU, our links with the USA would still work to our advantage.

It is frustrating to see this great movement taking shape and colour before our eyes, while we stand colourlessly on the brink, still as indecisive as we have been for years.

BRIAN WALDISS
Oxford

Sir: Hamish McRae claimed recently that the launch of the euro represented the first time a number of sovereign states had voluntarily abandoned their separate currencies and adopted a single currency.

Not so. In 19th-century Germany, prior to unification under Prussia, many of the sovereign states had their own currencies. These they voluntarily abandoned as the single market (Zollverein) developed, adopting instead the Prussian thaler as their single currency. Eurosceptics might take note that this failed to lead to political union, much to the disappointment of federalists and nationalists, because most states desired to retain their sovereignty. Indeed when in 1866 Prussia expelled Austria from Germany because she was the principal obstacle to political union, most German states sided with Austria despite their economic ties with Prussia.

M A L E E S
Brighton, East Sussex

Sir: Christopher Johnson ("The last EMU before global union?" 4 January) has missed an outstanding example of a successful currency union: it is the pound.

The English and Scottish pounds used to be two separate currencies of widely different values. On the union of the crowns in 1603 they were locked into an exchange-rate mechanism. On the union of the parliaments in 1707 this was changed into a single currency. This year's events have shown that the single currency has done nothing to weaken Scottish sense of national identity.

IAN RUSSELL
House of Lords

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Welsh Portraits No 3: A sea angler sets up his rod on Pendine Sands. These miles of sandy beach on Carmarthen Bay have been the setting for a number of attempts on the world land-speed record

Sir: Following the formation of the Axis pact in the late 1930s, some politically incorrect wit observed: "Serve Hitler right – we had the Italians last time!" This quotation springs to mind following the announcement that Lord Owen is to have a leading role in the anti-EMU campaign.

PHILIP GOLDENBERG
Liberal Democrats
Woking, Surrey

Fleeing Saddam

Sir: In the aftermath of the Desert Fox campaign over Iraq, I am reminded of those Iraqi refugees in the UK who have, for years, been talking about the brutal activities of that regime. The use of weapons of mass destruction, for example, was evident in the chemical attacks on Iraqi Kurds in Halabja in March 1988, killing about 5,000 people and leaving many more injured or facing long-term health problems. Yet, from a country of more than 19 million people, there were only 1,075 asylum-seekers in 1997, of whom only 255 were initially granted refugee status (Home Office provisional figures).

This is a good opportunity to review current UK policies and practices. How well do they stand up to the tests posed by this regime?

Is everything possible being done in our foreign policy to discourage any regime from serious human rights violations (including a refusal to supply the

weapons being used in this process)? Is everything possible being done to support the appropriate international bodies (such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees) in their efforts to offer assistance to all displaced people within or near to their country of origin?

Do we have an evidently fair and just system for assessing and judging asylum applications in the UK: does this operate to the same standards as the rest of British law (for example, attracting the same expertise in advocacy and in expert witness work) and offer both welfare with dignity and accessible medical support throughout this process?

A foreign policy informed by an

interest in human rights needs to be followed through in relation to policies for the victims of those human rights abuses.

Dr STUART TURNER
The Traumatic Stress Clinic
London W1

I won't freeze

Sir: In common with 8.4 million other old age pensioners I am about to receive a £20 winter fuel payment. I do not really need it and shall pass mine on.

I am not alone in having a generous occupational pension as well as my DSS pension, and I no longer have any dependants. I live in a small flat and my income is perfectly adequate to pay my fuel

bills. Government figures published last October show that in 1995/96 the top 20 per cent of pensioners lived in households where they enjoyed an average income of £22,000 a year. Why does the Government make fuel payments to people on incomes like ours? Because it would be very difficult and expensive to devise a way of targeting them which does not inadvertently cut out some who really need them.

I suggest that those of us who can manage without join me in passing over our payments to Age Concern or to Help the Aged, who can use the money to help the people for whom it is intended.

Professor WALTER ELKAN
London NW8

Yemen warnings

Sir: The issue of blame for the deaths of the hostages in Yemen will be debated for some time, but we were somewhat alarmed by the inference in your leading article on 1 January that the tourists themselves had some responsibility for what happened:

"Given the past history of Yemeni hostage-taking, the tourists must have known they were taking risks."

We have travelled on a number of occasions with their tour company, but we were fortunate enough to have chosen a different one for our trip to Yemen over the Christmas period. In our experience such travel operators (and invariably their clients as well) act with utmost care and are as well informed on local conditions as possible.

This group were undoubtedly as fully aware as we were that there was a very small risk of kidnapping but that no foreign tourist had yet been physically harmed by their captors. What happened in the latest incident was very different from previous events.

Neither they nor their tour operator were being foolhardy. They acted in line with all known information and advice, the most important source being the Foreign Office.

IAN BAILEY
LOUISE TURNER
Halifax, West Yorkshire

Term-time holidays

Sir: However much I sympathise with Marian McCain's splendid defence letter, I January) of the educational and cultural benefits of taking her children out of school for a three-month tour of Europe in 1977, I'm afraid the argument doesn't stand up 22 years later.

Any schoolchild's absence over and above the statutory 10 days of family holiday is now registered as unauthorised absence, published in league tables and interpreted by the public as "truancy rate". In addition, children on holiday during SATs can artificially depress the school's scores, which are also published in league tables.

It is unfair to accuse the National Association of Head Teachers of preferring their pupils to be "managed to their desks": they are only trying to make a crude league table system work. Perhaps the time is approaching for a more enlightened definition of what constitutes "education" to be seriously debated, together with a vigorous attack on the causes of genuine truancy.

BARBARA POINTON
Thriplow, Cambridgeshire

Sir: Parents who take their children out of school for holidays in term-time are downgrading the importance of school in their children's eyes. They clearly feel that it is more important for them to have a cheaper holiday than to support the teachers in educating their children.

Until parents stop putting holidays before education in schools, we will not develop the sort of positive culture of education that our society needs. Marian McCain's sarcastic hyperbole that "teachers would prefer children to be managed to their desks" shows how out of touch she is with reality.

J M DAVIES
Yeovil, Devon

Sir: Marian McCain has a quarter of the school year to take her children on "educational" holidays and all the recreations she feels are much better than the "grim" national curriculum. Teachers, mostly, work hard to impart the national curriculum to our offspring. They do this by finely balanced timetabling and regular pupil attendance. To deliberately wreck such planning seems selfish.

CATHERINE BRIAN
Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Staffordshire

Sir: If only it were true that children absent from school during term-time were visiting the Parthenon or doing the worthwhile activities mentioned in Marian McCain's letter. Unfortunately, most experience the "culture" of Disney (Paris or Florida) because fares and tariffs are so much cheaper out of the holiday season.

DOROTHY PAINES
Fetcham, Surrey

Sir: There is no proof that increasing teaching time will improve exam results. Private schools have always had longer holidays and better results.

CLARE LUBIN
London N3

Cornish wowsers

Sir: Len Clarke letter, 1 January asserts that the word "wowsers" is of Australian origin.

As a child in west Cornwall, in the 1930s, I knew perfectly well the meaning of a "Methodist wowsers". As it was widely used among the older generation I imagine it is a 19th century word, or earlier. With so many Cornish emigrating to Australia then, no need to ask how "wowsers" became part of Australia's vocabulary, along with many other words of Cornish origin.

The meaning "killjoy" is an obvious derivation from the word's use to describe someone who would forbid not only newspapers but games or music on a Sunday and alcohol (in Australia) on any day of the week.

NICK THOMAS
Halifax, West Yorkshire

At last, the truth about the alphabet has come to me

LAST WEEK I referred in a column to the comic alphabets taught me by my father which starts "Ay for 'Orses, Beef or Mutton, Cephos Salt, Deferential..." and then asked if any readers could help fill in the gaps in my memory.

I should have known better.

I have been deluged by a hundred or more letters on the subject, some didactic but most written by people who had been told the alphabet by their father or mother or colleagues in the forces, and triggered off by my remarks into a fit of nostalgia.

Luckily, one of the letters was just plain helpful. It came from proof-reader and copy editor Simon Adams, and said: "You need no website. David Crystal's *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language* makes mention of

several comic alphabets, but he himself is dependent on Eric Partridge's *Comic Alphabets* (1961)..." It was followed through the post by a letter from none other than David Crystal himself, summarising the history of the comic alphabet for me (following Eric Partridge) and then, from a kind Mr Godden in Bristol, a loan copy of Mr Partridge's now hard-to-find book, published in the 1930s, and prints various versions of it.

He is the first to say, and I am the first to agree, that there is no authentic version of this alphabet. Like a lot of folk art, it changes with the period and with the performer. And, I may say, with the reader's letter, so without further ado, I am going to follow your suggestions through the alphabet and let you choose your preferred version. A. Not much variation here.

script of Clapham and Dwyer's broadcast in the archives he was told that all the material had been destroyed by enemy action in the Second World War, which makes it sound as if Hitler had personally given orders for this alphabet to be eliminated. But Partridge was able to piece together more or less the original alphabet from stuff published in the 1930s, and prints various versions of it.

So whereas last week I was floundering in the dark, I am suddenly in possession of knowledge. Whereas last week I was floundering in the dark, I am suddenly in possession of knowledge.



MILES KINGTON
Whereas last week I was floundering in the dark, I am suddenly in possession of knowledge

Everyone liked "Ay for 'Orses" except for a brave few who preferred "Ava Gardner".

B. "Beef or mutton" was the clear favourite here. Nobody liked "ay for lamb", thinking it was far too modern. Other ideas which cropped up were "Beaverbrook", "bee for honey", "beef or mince", "before my time" and "B for Hugo". Before you go, I guess, I did, however, invent one myself here, which I was very proud of, "B for castle". Get it? "Belvoir Castle". Well, never mind.

C. Nobody liked "Cephos Salt" either. The clear leader was "Seaford Highlanders", though "C for yourself" was quite popular. D. I couldn't detect a clear swing here. I was offered Differential, Deferential, for D, Kate, Dear or dumb, D for glory, Defer Payments, and Dee for Salmon. Several people insisted that Dear or dumb was all right, because "deaf" was pronounced "dee" in the North-east, and I bet it is.

E. Eve or Adam, Eva Bartok, "Eave a brick, Ether gas, Evolution, Eva Peron, Eva Braun, Eave oh, my hearties. I am not sure I like any of them terrifically, but there they are.

F. "Effervescent" seemed the clear favourite, though "efflorescence" cropped up quite a lot. "F for lasting" was suggested. So was "F for green", which I didn't understand until I spoke it out loud and got "evergreen". G. Apparently, quite a lot of your parents got round the letter G by using it as a mild expletive. "Gee, for Gosh sake!", "Gee, forget it!", "Gee for crying out loud" were all popular. Clapham and Dwyer's version, it seems, was "G for y Tove" which is incomprehensible

till you learn that Geoffrey Toye was an impresario of the time. Still pretty feeble though. The best one by far, as most of you agreed was "G for police" (Chief of Police). One or two tried "Jeerer Screepers". I wish you hadn't.

H. A lot of versions of the letter H turned on the fact that "itch" sounds like "age". So I was offered "H for consent", "H for retirement", and so on. The best of these, possibly, was "H for beauty". Other versions heard H more like "ache" or "itch". Mr Stabb wrote from Cornwall to say that in a Cornish accent "Aitch for Scratching" was quite all right. But I think the best was "H for Himself" (occasionally followed by "and run like mad"). Good heavens! I've run out of space. Second half of the alphabet tomorrow.

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We must pay up to prevent the decline of our health service

ON THE face of it, winter seems to have cast the National Health Service back into a near-constant state of collapse. Over the weekend, incredibly, there were just 20 intensive care beds available in the whole of England; as a result, a number of distressing stories have emerged, from pensioners left on trolleys in corridors to patients being treated in ambulances because of lack of hospital space.

There is an outbreak of flu putting extra pressure on resources, but there is such an outbreak every few years, and the NHS ought to be able to cope. Neither is this outbreak particularly bad; the number of flu cases was much higher in 1995. The fact that the NHS is struggling is evidence of a deeper malaise. Most noticeably, a lack of nurses means that many beds that are physically available cannot be used to treat patients.

Overall, Britain has one of the most efficient health sectors in the world. The very fact that it operates at the limit of its abilities shows that it is using its resources to the full. For every penny we spend on health, we get better value for money than almost any other country. Labour has also copied the Tories by increasing spending in real terms, with the summer's Comprehensive Spending Review granting the NHS an extremely generous £21bn over three years.

The British public has at successive elections shown itself reluctant to pay more in taxes, and alternative social insurance systems may do no better. Even in the US, where citizens clamour for the best-quality products from every industry, "managed health care" is the fashion. Americans found that their economy was not strong enough to sustain uncontrolled health spending.

The NHS does not usually fail to treat those who are acutely ill. Its worst failings show up elsewhere, in the shoddiness of treatment of the chronically ill, whether that means the condition of the crumbling buildings or the wait to be treated. It is a scandal that patients are still subjected to the indignities of mixed-sex wards. Old buildings, even at such world-renowned centres as Great Ormond Street, Harefield and the Royal Marsden, cost more to run, more to heat, and are less accommodating to new practices and efficient delivery of care than newer hospitals.

These problems may get worse. Cost inflation in health services, which have continually to match the advent of new drugs and life-saving technology, runs far above that in the rest of the economy. This makes it impossible to keep up with demand without increasing the numbers of trained staff and advanced facilities. The present shortage of useful bed space – flu epidemic or no flu epidemic – is a sign that the time for this has come. New Labour speaks of hard choices; this will be one of them.

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A touch of magic where it's needed

TONY BLAIR today joins the hundreds of world leaders who have jetted into Pretoria to get a bit of what the South Africans call the *madiba magic* ("father" magic), a part of that peculiar charisma bestowed on all who meet him by President Nelson Mandela. Blair, more than most, needs it. He will return this weekend to a Westminster where his reputation for touch has been badly dented by scandal, cabinet squabbles and European rifts.

It would none the less be wrong to dismiss his trip as a bit of glitter-seeking. Anglo-South African relations remain critical for both sides, for Britain for reasons of exports and for South Africa for reasons of inward investment. Both of these need more than a handshake and some meaningless rhetoric at the moment. Despite all the

problems, Mandela's personality, his "goodness," has kept him above the international setbacks, and the disappointments, of post-apartheid Africa.

But the concerns are there and are growing. Business confidence has been corroded by internal political divisions within the government and by suspicions that Mandela's expected successor, Thabo Mbeki, and a substantial body of the African National Congress leadership would like to row back from the free market reforms introduced by Mandela. Optimism has also been shaken by the level of violence experienced in the urban centres.

Mandela has recently complained that white commitment has been too little and too shallow. And he has a point. South Africa of all countries needs and deserves investment for the long haul from the outside and co-operative belief on the inside. But in return the Pretoria government has to give more reassurance than it has so far that Mandela's retirement later this year will not see a return to a more restrictive economic policy.

Stop the ghost of Old Labour from clambering out of its tomb



ANNE
MCELVOY

My concern about this government is not that it is betraying its totems, but that it clings to too many

In the *New Statesman*, the Labour biographer Francis Beckett has argued that Mr Smith's shadow budget was not a significant factor in losing the 1992 election. He believes that because Labour had stated two years earlier that it would raise the top tax bracket to 50 per cent, the electorate had got used to the idea and so it couldn't have been the "tax bombshell" that lost it.

Oh but it was. Mr Beckett. If you doubt me, listen to Maurice Saatchi who was running the Conservatives' ad campaign: "The Tories only had one weapon – tax – and Labour gave it to them." Two years before polling day, voters are little bothered by the plans of politicians. Shortly before an election, they ponder what it all means and vote accordingly. Mr Smith was a kind man to his many friends in pol-

itics. He completed the structural reform of One Member, One Vote. But he failed to take seriously enough the sensibilities of moderately affluent (and aspirant) voters if Labour were to win power. His instinct was always to strengthen Labour in its heartlands, not to turn Conservative voters into Labour ones.

Blairite converts, according to Roy Hattersley in *The Guardian*, merely "topped up Labour's plurality and turned inevitable victory into a landslide". I like the "inevitable". The only thing that was inevitable about the Labour Party for most of my adult life was that it always managed to lose.

Mr Hattersley then accuses the Blairites of callousness towards the poor because they believe the problem of poverty cannot be redressed solely by throwing money at it.

At the level of childish simplicity, Mr Hattersley is right. If you gave poor people more money, they would not be so poor. It would not, however, answer the question of why so many people lead deprived lives, regardless of who is in government and how many benefits increased are made.

Cathy Come Home, the film that awakened middle England to the terrifying ease with which ordinary people can join the ranks of the homeless, describes a period when Old Labour was in power.

We don't yet know whether the Government's Social Exclusion Unit, lavishly mocked by Mr Hattersley, will make enough of a difference to count as a real improvement. But its existence shows that this govern-

ment takes seriously the need to examine why poverty arises and persists, rather than taking the easy way out and unleashing Mr Hattersley's recommended "bombardment of £5 notes".

Vast sums of public money have been poured into the worst council estates down the years by all governments, and the results are negligible. Poverty of expectation has not decreased, despite the introduction of the comprehensive schools that Mr Hattersley defends. Yet our state school system is culpably inefficient at raising the horizons of low- and middle-ability children. The NHS offers the illusion of equal access, accompanied by a crisis in recruitment and a bed shortage when the flu strikes. Tell the pensioner gasping for breath on a trolley in a corridor that the NHS does not need reform because it's free.

My concern about this government is not that it is betraying its Old Labour totems, but that it clings to too many of them. Behind the shiny rhetoric, its radical edge has blunted. Further controversial decisions are postponed until "the second term" – the political equivalent of Narnia.

Never mind Euan and Kathryn Blair missing a day's school. It is their father's absence that matters. His unruly Westminster class badly needs him. Yesterday, he dallied in South Africa with the outgoing President Mandela. If he does not hasten back to the more mundane business of restoring order at home, he may find that his own wind of change has blown itself out.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The proposed confiscation of land is reminiscent of what occurred in the Soviet Union."

Murdo Fraser, Conservative spokesman, on the proposed Scottish land reforms

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The obscurest epoch is today."

Robert Louis Stevenson, writer



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IT IS not the departure from Government of Peter Mandelson that poses most danger to Tony Blair, but the burning triumphalism at his fall among people who are supposed to be on the same side of the political fence. Sizeable chunks of the Labour Party, from the constituencies to the Cabinet, are crowding indecently at Mr Mandelson's fate and the setback to the ambitions of New Labour.

But, like the *Judean* in Monty Python's *Life of Brian* who wants to know what the Romans have done for him – apart from the roads, the aqueducts and the clean water – they are cross because it wasn't their brand of Labour that made the radical changes.

These people will not rest content until the Labour Party is unpopular again. They are too bound up in their tribal *Bruderblut* to see that the Blair Government has made irreversible changes to Britain and was able to do so only because it had most of the country, and not just the die-hard Labour parts of it, on its side.

But even before Mandate struck, Old Labour was trying to clamber out of the tomb. Its central claim is that John Smith would have won the 1997 election without the reforms demanded by Mr Blair. This argument holds that New Labour was never really necessary and that the party has sold its soul for nothing. I remember the soul of the Old Labour Party, as it happens. It consisted of a machinery understood by the few not the many and an unspecified but robust sense of grievance, underpinned by class resentment. It was riven with distrust and dominated by trade union cliques. It let in Margaret Thatcher in 1979 and took 18 years to get rid of her party.

THE IMPEACHMENT of President Clinton looms in the Senate like a mudslide blocking California's coastal Highway 1. Traffic won't move until it is removed. We want fast action by the Senate. And a fair trial for the President. And respect for the process, in a way that sets sound precedent. Perhaps this is akin to asking someone to walk and chew gum and juggle knives at the same time. It's not easy. But it's not impossible. San Jose Mercury News

THE BEST option is to pass a bill stripping Clinton of his pension and his expense allowance after he leaves office. Leaving him to fend for himself, with only Secret Service protection provided by the taxpayers, would be a fitting punishment for the first president since Gerald Ford not to rate millionaire status. While Congress cannot fine Clinton, it can pass any law it wishes relative to his pension and expense allocation. A punishment of this magni-

tude would meet the demands of the public, and would even appease those members of the right who still retain their sanity. (Dick Morris) The New York Post

NEXT TO President Clinton, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott faces the greatest risk, once the upper chamber considers the articles of impeachment that the House of

Representatives approved last month. The public does not appear hungry for a long, tedious trial. But history will still judge Mr Lott about how thoroughly the Senate conducts only the second impeachment trial of an American president. Dallas Morning News

ASA matter of practical politics, the continuation of this impeachment business looks like a loser for all concerned. What began with the vulgar and

tautological embarrassing has become one of the great political collisions of our history. The problem is that, for generations, people are going to be looking back and assessing the actions of our public figures and politicians in the winter of 1998-99, asking whether they delivered on their solemn oath to "do impartial justice". If that gives pause, maybe it's because it ought to. (Bob Lindberg) The Washington Times

PANDORA

IS PETER Mandelson to be offered a column with *The Guardian*? Following a tip that the former trade secretary was about to find some gainful employment (other than being an MP of course) Pandora rang *The Guardian*. A spokeswoman for the editor, Alan Rusbridger, declined to comment, besides saying that she could neither confirm nor deny the story. Meanwhile, Peter was incommunicado. If he is about to put pen to paper for *The Guardian*, he would surely hope to have a longer shelf life than Derek Draper, his former employee, did at *The Daily Telegraph* after his fall from grace.

WHEN BARBRA Streisand enters the next millennium she will also enter the history books. Streisand has been offered "an eight-figure sum" to sing at the MGM-Grand Hotel in Las Vegas next New Year's Eve. Fans were expecting to see the singer at Madison Square Garden, in New York, for the millennium celebrations, but she has a "soft spot" for Las Vegas, according to a report in the *New York Post*. If Babs is going to get that kind of money, described as "a fee far greater than has ever been paid to any artist anywhere for a performance", she certainly won't go short of gambling chips after the show.

THE AMBITION of Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, to become the prospective Labour leader in the Welsh National Assembly has forced the rearrangement of his son's wedding. The result of the contest between Michael and Rhodri Morgan, the Cardiff West MP, is to be declared on 20 February – the preferred date for Michael's son, Tal, to marry his fiancée, Mary. "We wanted to avoid a clash," Michael told the *Western Mail*. The wedding will now take place a week later. "I hope to have two enjoyable weekends on the trot," the Welsh Secretary added. Unfortunately for Michael, many of those who do know of any just impediment as to why he should not be Labour leader in the assembly have already spoken.

AN EXPOSE of the Clintons' marriage is to be published in the May issue of *Vanity Fair*. Many of the juicier details arising from Gail Sheehy's epic account concern

Hillary herself. Hillary's mother, Dorothy Rodham, who apparently fills her time listening to right-wing radio in her Little Rock condominium, tells Sheehy that she and Hillary "don't sit down and have those mother-daughter discussions". Such sobriety may explain Hillary's habit of imposing a "PG" rating on all news given to her by her staff. In the article, Betsy Wright, the former chief of staff to President Clinton, explains that Hillary receives "no sex, no late-night talk-show jibes, no facts about the scandal that might distract or distract her", adding that Hillary "is probably the only person in America you could tell a cigar joke to and she wouldn't get it".

WORDS MAY come back to haunt ex-wrestler Jesse "The Body" Ventura (pictured) who was sworn in as Governor of Minnesota on Monday. At the ceremony, Ventura was glowingly endorsed by Arnold Schwarzenegger, who co-starred with the new Governor in the film *Predator*. However, had Schwarzenegger read the remarks that Ventura has made about him in the forthcoming issue of the magazine *USA Weekend*, he might have preferred to bite his lip. Jesse doesn't seem to think that Arnie should follow his path into politics, saying that the muscle man actor wouldn't make a good president and adding: "Arnold's real interests are making movies and money. He probably has political interests because he sees how much money he pays in taxes."

WHEN EARL Russell, the Liberal Democrat peer, received a letter from a company offering some preferential rates on photocopiers and fax machines, he knew something was up. Close scrutiny revealed that the offer was from Greg Downer, the Labour Party account manager at Ibex Office Systems, who added that equipment could be supplied to 10 Downing Street, Millbank Tower and the House of Commons. Russell puts it down to computer incompetence, but with reports that Tony Blair's Government may be about to offer the Liberal Democrats civil service help and access to confidential documents, Pandora wonders if this offer is the hardware side of the deal.

Why are we rock fans treated so badly?



DAVID LISTER

It's long ceased to be the sole province of the young; people now watch Oasis and Pulp 'en famille'

since ceased to be the sole province of the young. Thirty, 40, and 50-somethings go to rock concerts just as they do to operas. People watch not just the Spice Girls but also Oasis and Pulp *'en famille'*.

Though "watch" can be an exaggeration. How often at a rock concert can you really see and hear properly? Most concerts at places such as Wembley have unisoned surprises on the night.

seating in front of the stage; and when people stand up – in other words within 20 seconds of the concert starting – those under six tall see no more of the show.

Even more annoying are the enforced and totally unnecessary delays to the start of every rock concert. You stand sardine-style in sweltering conditions for an hour watching roadies touch amplifiers and gaze intently at wires – I mean what do they actually do that couldn't have been done during the afternoon? Starting times on the tickets bear no relation to the real start time. Yet if you ring up the venue and use an in-phase (such as "give me the running order") you will find that it is known precisely to the minute, when the group comes on and off stage. Those supposedly spontaneous encores are in fact planned to the last detail.

Why, also, is rock the one entertainment where it is considered pedantic to want to know where you are sitting when you buy your ticket? Venues often will inform you only of the price range. The row itself is a nice, or more often nasty, surprise on the night.

Promoters are, of course, not helped by the choice of venues. It is quite incredible that while we can be said to have led the world in rock music since 1963, Britain does not possess one purpose-built rock venue. Just as incredible is the fact that while hundreds of millions of pounds are going from the national lottery to build new museums, new theatres and new opera houses, not a penny of lottery money has been earmarked for a rock venue.

Our most famous venue for rock concerts is Wembley, a place built as a swimming-pool, then used for ice-skating, where now most of the seats do not even face the stage. The one area of the venue where you can see and hear well is well-nigh impossible to book. It is reserved for record company staff and other guests (and, of course, the critics, many of whom would do well to review concerts from the sight-and-sound-impaired standpoint of most of the audience).

Wembley is not alone. In the rest of the country many venues are also converted sports halls or shed-like, soulless barns. Real atmospheric rock venues, such as the much

I know, it's only rock'n'roll. But we shouldn't have to suffer to watch it.

These spin doctors thrive in our backstabbing culture



KEN LIVINGSTONE
Peter Mandelson always saw his job as promoting the leader of the Labour Party, not the party itself

agreed. We decided to allow each of the main party groupings to appoint a press officer, and the Labour Party HQ let us poach Veronica Crichton for the vacant seat on the NEC, and throughout the summer a series of anonymous briefings appeared posing the contest as a straightforward battle between Bryan and myself.

Veronica had been seconded to help the London Labour Party during the GLC election campaign, and I was impressed by her direct and blunt manner. When I asked what she thought about the coming contest between myself and Andrew McIntosh for leadership of the Labour Group, she replied that it was regrettable that such an important post had such a limited pool of talent to choose from! In accepting the post she made it clear that she would not lie on behalf of the Labour Group because that would compromise her professional reputation.

She was an immediate success with journalists, who rapidly realised that her briefings were accurate and impartial. She also recognised that her duty was to the Labour group as a whole, and was never guilty of unattributable rubbish of those members of the Labour Group who happened to disagree with me.

The problem with the growth of the spin-doctoring industry is that the practitioners have come to identify too closely with the individual they are serving. No one is more to blame for this than Peter Mandelson himself. Peter always saw his role as promoting the leader of the Labour Party rather than the party itself. Unlike Veronica Crichton he almost seemed to relish getting involved in internal party fights, even though he was the Campaigns and Communications Officer for the Labour Party collectively.

My first experience of being on the receiving end of Peter's spin-doctoring came when I stood for election to Labour's NEC in 1987. Peter was strongly pushing Bryan Gould for the vacant seat on the NEC, and throughout the summer a series of anonymous briefings appeared posing the contest as a straightforward battle between Bryan and myself. Whenever Bryan and I met at meetings he expressed surprise that the media were reporting the contest in this way because there were in fact a score of candidates chasing the seven places.

As Bryan put it (and as, in fact, happened in the election) "I wouldn't be at all surprised if both of us got elected". Of course, Peter had tried to portray the issue as a struggle between Bryan and me, because even then it fitted his own agenda of rubbishing "old" Labour's traditions and personalities – Bryan was seen as a "moderniser".

Ironically, because of Peter's briefing, my election was seen as a major defeat for Neil Kinnock. Of course, Bryan and myself broadly agreed on the value of Keynesian economic policy and eventually the Labour leadership decided to dispense with his services after he was found guilty of being caught in possession of an independent mind.



Gordon Brown with his ex-press officer, Charlie Whelan

this pattern of negative briefing against colleagues while John Smith was leader of the Labour Party, but with Peter Mandelson's return to the inner circle, matters worsened.

It's not surprising therefore that Gordon Brown felt he needed his own spin doctor, both to watch his back and to deal with critics.

The problem for the Labour Party as this climate of backstabbing between powerful barons escalated, was that the very real achievements of the Labour government were often pushed on to the back pages, while the headlines were dominated by the outpourings of the spin doctors. People applying to work for Gordon Brown and Tony Blair tended to complain that they were being asked "what can you do for Gordon?" or "what can you do for Tony?"

I conclude this first Charlie Whelan Annual Memorial Column with the hope that all these highly paid young men and women might start asking themselves another question: "What can I do for the Labour government as a whole?"

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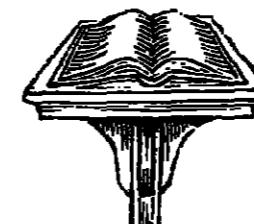
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Don't hold back the disabled



PODIUM
SONALI SHAH
From a paper to a British Psychological Society conference by a Loughborough University researcher

objectively. Six of the 14 men responded along the lines of "success, for me, is being happy in what I'm doing", or "achieving some kind of personal satisfaction".

However, while internal criteria were an exceedingly important part of all the individuals' conceptions of career success, external criteria such as career progression and material wealth were identified as significant components of

career success for half of the disabled high-flyers.

Those who included external criteria in their definition of career success tended to have been nurtured within a middle-class environment during childhood. Thus social class background proved to be a significant factor in determining the notions of success held by participants with acquired and congenital disabilities.

Although the family was universally important in terms of providing the participants with love and support, the findings indicate that expectations of children with congenital disabilities from working-class backgrounds tended to be low.

They were conceptualised in terms of a medical model of disability, which positions disabled people as passive objects of intervention, treatment and rehabilitation, incapable of pursuing an autonomous independent lifestyle. Although disabled children from middle-class backgrounds were not exempt from this, disability may have been overridden by middle-class values of hard work and the need to do well.

Another major determinant was education, which was

generally seen as an essential prerequisite to career success. In the words of one participant: "It is an essential grounding in making the mind flexible, it has been invaluable."

The research showed that participants with acquired disabilities believed becoming disabled to be a determining factor of their career success. In some instances the acquisition of a disability caused the individual to reorientate their career path.

Although social class background is as influential to a disabled child's career progression as it is to that of non-disabled individuals, the disabled minority are still at a disadvantage.

Employers should not assume that disabled people are a homogeneous group, with a single set of drives and desires related to their career. However, they should be aware that the skills a disabled person has to achieve to ascertain equality and acceptance are thought to be beneficial to employment. People with disabilities are good at solving problems, as they encounter one nearly every day of their lives.

At last, an end to feudalism



DEBORAH ORR
The Highlands teem with foreign lairds, bristling with anger at the ingratitudo of their serfs

I'M ON my honeymoon, dining with the Laird of Unst and his lady wife. It's not that I'm generally given to hanging out with the landed gentry of Scotland, it's just that the laird has recently come home to the land of his forebears and is - with the help of the ex-convent girl from the home counties who is his soulmate, helpmeet, and lifetime-on-cordon-bleu-course concubine - running the ancestral seat as an undersized country hotel. It's not such an enviable way of living, for Unst is the northernmost island in Shetland, which, of course, means it's the last sliver of land in Britain.

We're already finding it hard to like the laird, not because he's such a bad chap, but because the best-known of his ancestors saved the bonnie from extinction. Bonxies are huge, hideously ugly and mind-bogglingly vicious gulls, best-known for dive-bombing any human who wanders on to their breeding grounds. My husband and I have just spent an afternoon slogging across the moorland being buzzed by these creatures in scenes that made Hitchcock's *The Birds* seem as realistic as Peter Mandelson's lifestyle. We're a little shaken.

Still, things are going OK until an enquiry is made at the table as to whether the laird's family had anything to do with the Unst clearances.

The laird appears chipper, and murmurs that thankfully his family can hold their heads high. His lady, however, turns into something of a bonxie herself, and starts screeching in her lavishly southern accent that there were no clearances on Shetland. Her husband interjects, explaining that the remains of some empty cottages, never owned by his family, can still be seen not a mile away.

"No!" she yells. Their people were traitors, walking out of their own volition, irresponsibly leaving their homes and their land on a promise of easy living down south, maybe even abroad. Where had we heard these vicious lies? From the blasted locals no doubt, was it not?

Well, no. From Eric Linklater's history of Orkney and Shetland.

Linklater, she screamed, was a liar. She then announced that she could no longer share a table with the likes of us, and flapped out of the room, like a bonxie flying into the sunset. Even the laird himself slumped back in relief at her exit.



Large tracts of Scotland are devoted to the feudal pleasures of the hunt. These falconers are preparing to hawk for grouse

Jeff Mitchell/Reuters

Why a middle-aged Englishwoman should feel so important to rewrite a 150-year-old history in which she could never have had any involvement, may seem like a mystery. Except that there's no mystery here. The Highlands and Islands of Scotland are teeming with incoming foreign lairds and lairdesses, bristling with anger at the ingratitude of their serfs, while in return the hills are alive with the sounds of bitter locals cursing the bones of their former landlords.

Look at the sixth Earl Granville, owner of a 60,000-acre estate on the outer Hebridean island of North Uist. Although relations between lairds and locals had been cordial since the family's purchase of the estate in 1961, crofters were furious when they found that the meagre living they made from the harvesting and sale of seaweed would be a little more if his lordship hadn't invoked an ancient law which entitled him

to claim royalties on all seaweed collected on the island. "It's disgusting, grasping, medieval," said one crofter, and he was absolutely right. Medieval it certainly is.

Until now, Scotland's land ownership has been run on a feudal structure that has survived since the reign of David the First in the 12th century. But yesterday the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, announced radical reforms of land ownership in Scotland which will, among other things, end the superior-vassal relationship where by landowners can, if they wish, tax seaweed picked up from a beach, or anything else at all they may fancy.

Residents, too, will have the right to purchase land that comes up for sale from absentee or neglectful landlords, and brings us back to local-hating incomer landlords such as poor old Keith Schellenberg, former Olympic bob-sleigh champion, and more recently former laird of the Hebridean island of Eigg. He purchased the island as

a holiday home in 1974, and set in motion a grand plan to build a self-sufficient utopia which included - at the least bizarre end of his set of plans - a craft centre and the importing of a new breed of cattle.

Needless to say, the craft centre closed, the cattle didn't thrive and the whole thing went to hell in a hand-basket. For Schellenberg himself it wasn't so bad, as he wintered on his Banffshire estate. But the locals became fed up with his eccentric lairdship, and a very public battle ensued which culminated in Schellenberg's announcement that "his" islanders were "drunken, ungrateful, lawless, barmy revolutionaries" - followed quickly by his sale of the island to the German Marlin Eckhard Maruma.

Although, after a massive public appeal - the islanders were refused lottery money to purchase the island - Eigg was purchased from Maruma by the locals, they would have been able to force a purchase direct from Schellenberg under the new rules. Funding will be set aside for communities in such a situation. Similarly, the future of the estate of Knoydart is also looking rosier today. Spurred on by neighbouring Eigg, the residents of Knoydart have been bidding to buy the estate that they live and work on from Stephen Hinchliffe, former city trader who is facing investigation by the serious fraud squad after the collapse of his retail empire, Fuscia. The locals say the estate is being mismanaged by Hinchliffe and his partner, and if these claims can be proven it will now be possible for the Government to impose a compulsory purchase order, and for the locals to take over ownership. It is truly fantastic, and will change not just the topography of Scotland, but the nation's idea of itself.

Certainly, though, these changes have been a long time coming. Scots have been fulminating for years about the carve-up of the Highlands and Islands by subsidy seekers from Mohammed al-Fayed

to Terry Wogan, and about the fact that there has never been any protection of Scottish land from foreign ownership. Half of the country is owned by 500 people, few of whom are Scots. Nationalists have been campaigning for years for Scotland to be brought into line with England and the rest of Europe by abolishing feudal structures and regulating land use.

There is no doubt a little political expediency in the timing of Dewar's announcement, as New Labour becomes increasingly antsy about Scotland's seeming desire to move directly from devolution to full independence. But, clearly, on this occasion Westminster is promising something right and necessary and with no strings attached - that one of the first tasks of the Scottish Parliament will be to move Scotland forward for a thousand years. As for the good lady of Unst, thank God I'm not sitting round her dinner table this evening. This whole thing will be driving her off her bonxie.

Where society is not a dirty word



WEDNESDAY BOOKS

**CONVERSATIONS WITH ANTHONY GIDDENS:
MAKING SENSE OF MODERNITY**
BY ANTHONY GIDDENS AND CHRISTOPHER PIERSON, POLITY PRESS, £12.95.
PAROXYSM: INTERVIEWS WITH PHILIPPE PETIT
BY JACQUES BAUDRILLARD AND PHILIPPE PETIT, VERSO, £11

ing with Tony in the White House a few months ago. The recent one-off edition of *Marxism Today* was almost entirely composed of those social thinkers - Hall, Hobsbawm, Held - whose long years of reformist speculation had been snubbed by No 10. Yet while these reborn socialists wait for the next totem of world capitalism to bring the party to its senses, Giddens is already at the thick of it, turning his prodigious learning into the common sense of a new political order.

Read this illuminating book of con-

versations with Giddens, and you realise exactly why he has succeeded. For his understanding of what constitutes the "social" is, to use his own terminology, well beyond left and right - and certainly beyond the sentimental collectivism of the old *Marxism Today* crowd. Society, in Giddens's view, is complex, tangled, seemingly unpredictable. We inhabit a "runaway world", a "risk society". If any government wanted a justification for the choice of nudging pragmatism over strict planning, then Giddens's thinking is ready-made for the task.

His interviewer, Christopher Pierson, is a dogged socialist of the old school. He spends most of this book trying to get Giddens to worry about problems - class struggle, welfare benefits, technological determinism - which the director of the LSE seems only too relieved to leave behind. Yet Giddens's confidence comes not just from his proximity to power, but from the prophetic nature of his writings.

A chapter entitled "Structuration Theory" - Giddens's big news of the Seventies - may not seem like the most promising ground. But there it is: an understanding of the relationship between individuals and the conditions which bear upon them, which is so fiendishly difficult to grasp (especially for his interviewer) that it's almost mystical. Giddens was talking about a Third Way, between individual "agency" and social "structure", decades before Blair got round to it - and, one must say, before Giddens started turning his own

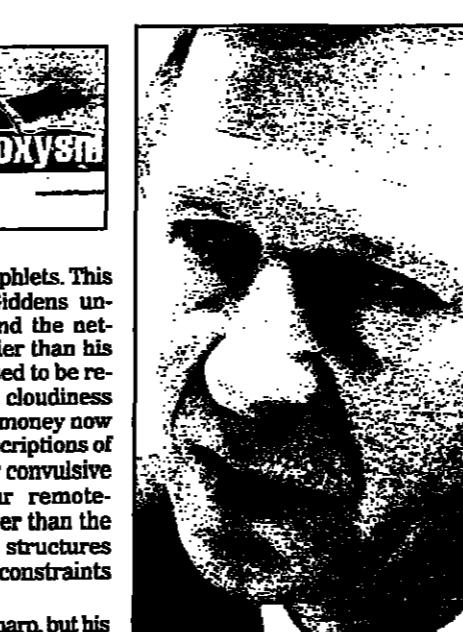
theories into rab-rab pamphlets. This book also shows that Giddens understood globalisation and the networked world much earlier than his contemporaries. What used to be regarded as his conceptual cloudiness on matters of power and money now turn out to be modest descriptions of reality. What else are our convulsive financial crises, or our remote-controlled Gulf Wars, other than the "disembedding" of social structures - as he puts it - from the constraints of time and space?

Giddens's diagnosis is sharp, but his remedies are still unconvincing. Will an idea of "positive welfare" link the contented middle classes to the poor who claim their taxes? Will we be able to rein in rampant markets and ecological disasters with "world government"? Is the answer to a world endemic with risk and insecurity a turn towards "cosmopolitan democracy"? There's something a sense that Giddens, self-confessedly a theoretician, is keen to keep minting bright new concepts, hopeful that politicians will eventually rally behind them.

Yet as structuration theory says - or is it Buddhism? - you make reality as it makes you. No wonder Giddens is interested in 12-step therapy plans.

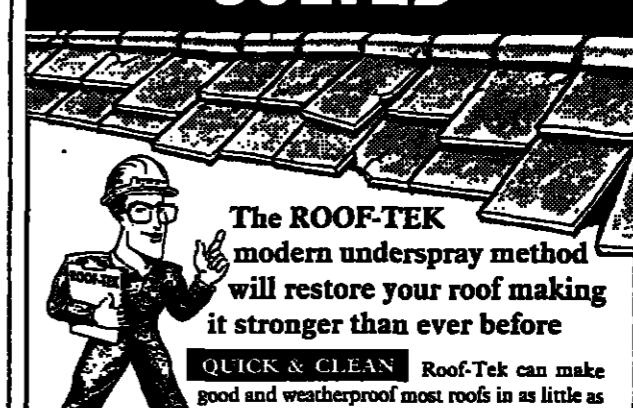
After such diligence, it's mildly relieving to turn to a book of interviews with someone who "never" thought there was such a thing as society anyway. But if Giddens's star is rising in the can-do culture of Blairism, the French thinker Jean Baudrillard's star is shooting to earth. All that

Giddens: talking about a Third Way decades ago Mykel Nicolaou



Mykel Nicolaou

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WEDNESDAY POEM

ERIC CLAPTON: 461 OCEAN BOULEVARD FROM 'SLEEVE NOTES' BY PAUL MULDOON

It's the house in all its whitened sepulchritude
(not the palm tree against which dogs piddle
as they make their way back from wherever
it was they were all night) that's really at a list.

Through the open shutters his music, scatty, skewed,
skids and skites from the neck of a bottle
that might turn on him, might turn and sever
an artery, the big one that runs through his wrist.

Our poems this week come from volumes shortlisted for
the T S Eliot Prize, to be announced on 1 January.
Shortlisted authors will read at the Almeida Theatre, London N1
on Sunday 10 January (box office: 0171-359 4404).
Paul Muldoon's 'Hay' is published by Faber (£7.99).

Pat Kane

Don Taylor

HANDSOME AND affable, the actor, director and writer Don Taylor, who played the fiancé of Elizabeth Taylor in the classic comedy *Father of the Bride*, spent over a decade portraying clean-cut, all-American young men. In 1950 women students at the major Californian universities voted him "the man we'd like best to enrol with".

He later moved into directing, where his work was considered efficient rather than exciting. He directed over 400 television episodes and dramas, and 15 films, including two successful sequels, *Escape from the Planet of the Apes* (the third in that series) and *Damien - Omen II*. As a writer, his scripts included the television movie *My Wicked Wicked Ways - The Legend of Errol Flynn* (1985), which he also directed.

Born in 1926 in Pittsburgh, and raised in Freeport, Philadelphia, he studied law at Pennsylvania State University, along with speech and drama. A part in a college stage production determined his future.

"There was never any question about it," he said. "Once I put my foot on a stage, I knew I was going to be an actor."

After graduation, he hitch-hiked to Hollywood, where he was given a screen-test by Warners but rejected because he was liable to be drafted for war service. MGM took him on, and immediately cast him in a tiny role as a soldier returning on leave in Clarence Brown's touching version of William Saroyan's *The Human Comedy* (1943). Small parts followed in *Girl Crazy*, *Swing Shift Maisie*, *Thousands Cheer* and *Salute to the Marines*, all in 1943, before he enlisted in the army.

While in the service he was chosen by Moss Hart to play a major role in the army air-force production of Hart's play *Winged Victory*, which absorbingly followed a group of six youthful air-force recruits through their training, including interludes with their wives, sweethearts and mothers. It opened on Broadway in November 1943 and brought Taylor excellent reviews for his performance in the role of the gregarious "Pinky" and, billed as "Corporal Don Taylor", he re-created the role in the film version, directed by George Cukor in 1944.

Winged Victory was a memorable evening in the theatre," said Variety, "and the picture is no less worthy." Proceeds from both the play and the film went to army charities and, like Michael Curtiz's *This is the Army*, the film is alas rarely shown today.

Taylor's first post-war film was *Song of the Thin Man* (1947), after which he played one of Deanna Durbin's suitors in *For the Love of Mary* (1948). He was a young homicide detective working with an older one (Barry Fitzgerald) in *The Naked City* (1948), made entirely on location in New York City and Taylor's favourite of his films. "It was one of the first of its kind," he stated. "It was improvisational in many ways: now it's very ordinary to go and shoot anywhere, but *Naked City* did it long

before anybody else. The director Jules Dassin shot a lot of it using hidden cameras."

He was a young war recruit again, but this time taking part in brutal combat, in *Battleground* (1949), then had his best remembered role, as Elizabeth Taylor's fiancé and ultimately bridegroom, in Vincente Minnelli's timeless, beautifully judged comedy *Father of the Bride* (1950). "That film just goes on and on," said Don Taylor recently. "and so does Liz."

The following year he was in the sequel, *Father's Little Dividend*, and he also appeared in *Flying Leathernecks* (1951), *The Blue Veil* (1951), as a former charge of lifetime nanny Jane Wyman), and King Vidor's *Japanese War Bride* (1952), in which he played a GI who finds it difficult to deal with the problems that arise when he returns to the US with an Oriental wife.

He was the missing prisoner-of-war around whom the plot pivots in Billy Wilder's *Stalag 17* (1953) and, by now a heavy drinker, he formed a close friendship with the film's star William Holden. "Bill and I used to drink like it was going out of style," said Taylor later. He was able to put his experience to good use when cast in *I'll Cry Tomorrow* (1955), playing an aviation cadet who goes on the town with singer Lillian Roth (Susan Hayward) and wakes up in a hotel room to find that he is married to her. Not loving each other, the couple go from one party to another over the ensuing months until they divorce.

Taylor's drinking was due in part to his career's unsatisfactory progress and it reached its nadir in 1957:

I had just done Hammer's dreary *Men of Sherwood Forest*, and was getting a divorce so I called my agent and said, "Listen, I've had it. I want to get out of the country - do you have anything?" He said, "Yeah, we've got a picture that's going in Brazil," and I said, "That's for me!" I didn't even read the script, and when I got to Brazil and read it, I was ready to cut my throat.

further television work including an episode of Alfred Hitchcock Presents. "I was friendly with Hitchcock, because after *Naked City* I had auditioned for him for a part in *Roape*, which I didn't get."

The 30-minute episode, *The Crocodile Case* (1958), starred Denholm Elliott and Hazel Court (known at the time as "the scream queen of British horror"). Taylor and Court fell in love, were married in 1964 (it was

I'd directed several times on television, called me and asked me to direct a film he was producing. I was hesitant, but Hazel urged me to do it. The trouble was Mickey and his co-star Buddy Hackett wouldn't stop clowning, and as Mickey was the producer I couldn't stop him. Stars sometimes have too much power."

I was directing an episode of *Haze Girl Will Travel* with Richard Boone and suggested that he do such and such and he said "Nope, I'll just walk over there and sit down." He's directing, and I'm just directing traffic."

the musical genre), *The Great Scout* and *Cathouse Thursday* (1976), *The Island of Dr Moreau* (1978, starring Burl Lancaster and based on the H.G. Wells fantasy), and *The Final Countdown* (1980) which had an intriguing premise - an aircraft carrier enters a time-warp and finds itself in the Pacific on the eve of the Pearl Harbor attack - but, as Taylor admitted, a weak ending. "The ending had nothing to do with the whole picture - suddenly they were back in their own era just sailing blithely along. It was produced by its star Kirk Douglas - a superb actor but as a producer a pain in the ass."

Don Taylor directed many television movies, including *Heat of Anger* (1972) with his friend Susan Hayward. He considered himself something of a pioneer in breaking through the barrier between acting and directing. "It upsets me when I see someone like Kevin Costner getting \$25m to make a film. Apart from a few exceptions - Chaplin, Welles, Olivier - actors were not trusted to direct films in my era. Dick Powell, Ida Lupino, Paul Henried and myself were forerunners of actors becoming directors. I helped break that barrier down, and it is a directors' medium."

TOM VALLANCE

Donald Ritchie Taylor, actor, director and writer; born Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 20 December 1920; three times married (two daughters); died Los Angeles 28 December 1998.



Dementia Care Mapping

and the musical genre), *The Great Scout* and *Cathouse Thursday* (1976), *The Island of Dr Moreau* (1978, starring Burl Lancaster and based on the H.G. Wells fantasy), and *The Final Countdown* (1980) which had an intriguing premise - an aircraft carrier enters a time-warp and finds itself in the Pacific on the eve of the Pearl Harbor attack - but, as Taylor admitted, a weak ending. "The ending had nothing to do with the whole picture - suddenly they were back in their own era just sailing blithely along. It was produced by its star Kirk Douglas - a superb actor but as a producer a pain in the ass."

Don Taylor directed many television movies, including *Heat of Anger* (1972) with his friend Susan Hayward. He considered himself something of a pioneer in breaking through the barrier between acting and directing. "It upsets me when I see someone like Kevin Costner getting \$25m to make a film. Apart from a few exceptions - Chaplin, Welles, Olivier - actors were not trusted to direct films in my era. Dick Powell, Ida Lupino, Paul Henried and myself were forerunners of actors becoming directors. I helped break that barrier down, and it is a directors' medium."

The idea was to provide students with an opportunity to explore and develop the feeling, emotional and intuitive parts of themselves, so as

to enrich personal resources in their work and everyday life. Innovations of this kind have played a major part in improving the care of people with dementia both in the community and in formal settings.

In 1992 he founded Bradford Dementia Group, initially a side-line. Its philosophy is based on a "person-centred" approach quite simply to "treat others in a way you yourself would like to be treated".

The group moved from the department of Interdisciplinary Human Studies, within Bradford University, in April 1998. It consists of eight core members, with 18 associates spread throughout the UK. These associates are authorised to use the group's innovations or to teach courses developed by the group and aligned to its approach to care.

In September 1998 Kitwood gained a personal chair from Bradford University and was appointed the Alois Alzheimer Professor of Psychogerontology. He was the author of numerous publications on dementia, including *Person to Person: A Guide to the Care of Those with Failing Mental Powers*, with Kathleen Bredin (1991); he recently won the Age Concern "book of the year" award for *Dementia Reconsidered*.

Besides his contribution to research Kitwood pioneered several key educational and training initiatives related to the care of people with dementia. The most popular is a three-day training course on the Person-Centred Approach and Dementia Care Mapping. The uniqueness of the method is that it takes the standpoint of the person with dementia. It is one of the group's most popular short courses, taught nationally and internationally.

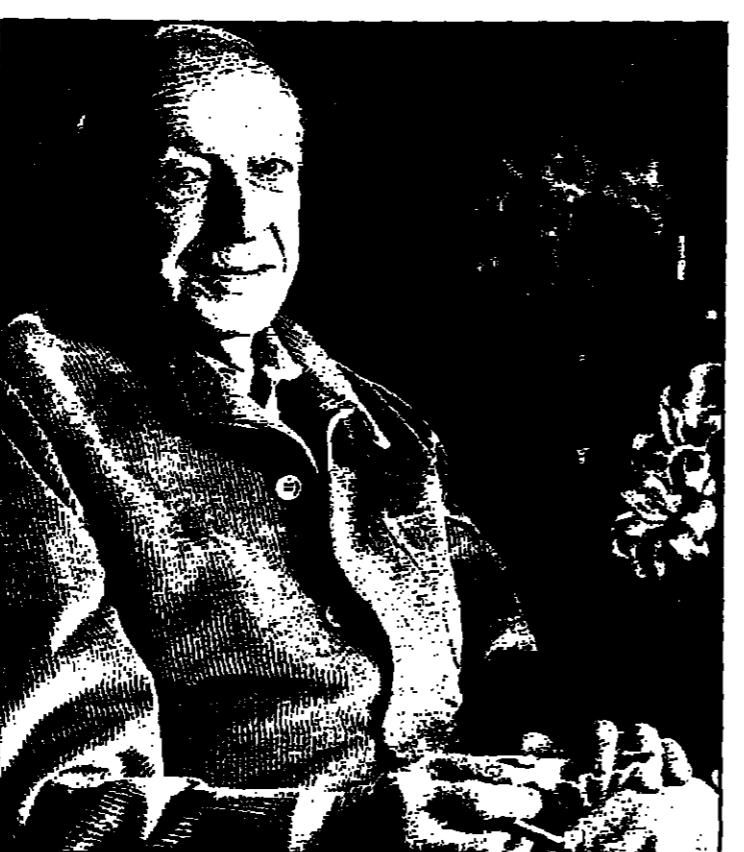
As Tom Kitwood's work became known internationally the Bradford Dementia Group developed contacts with Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the US. In 1998 he delivered Person-Centred Approach and Dementia Care Mapping courses in Sweden and the US, training in Ohio and North Carolina in October.

Tom Kitwood was a great communicator and well known for his charisma in delivering courses, presentations, conferences and seminars. A person of rare talents, he was an inspiration to many people worldwide. Although he had previously been a school chaplain, he renounced any particular religious attachment, but retained a concern with spirituality, conscious of the art of meditation and the importance of looking after the "inner self". He had a very active social life, and enjoyed long walks in the countryside, games of tennis, dancing and playing the guitar.

LINDA FOX

Thomas Marris Kitwood, psychogerontologist; born Boston, Lincolnshire 16 February 1937; Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Bradford University 1984-98, Alois Alzheimer Professor of Psychogerontology 1998; married 1969 Jenny Cooper (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1988); died Bradford 1 November 1998.

Jean Malaquais



In *Les Javanais* (1938) Malaquais wrote about his life as a miner

AMONG THE writers who were great world wanderers - Conrad, Traven, Cendrars - we should include a lesser-known name, that of Jean Malaquais, a Pole who taught himself French and in 1939 won the prestigious Renaudot Prize for fiction with his extraordinary autobiographical novel *Les Javanais*, lauded to the skies by no less than Trotsky, André Gide and Pierre Herbert.

Malaquais was a most unusual man who led a most unusual life. He was born Wladimir Malacki in 1908 in the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, into a family he described as "totally agnostic". His father was a professor of Greek and Latin, his mother a musician. At an early age, when he was only seven years old, he became forever suspicious of all authority, and especially of the police, after seeing Russian mounted police slashing off heads with their sabres.

As soon as he had got his high-school diploma, he ran away from home to escape the oppressive atmosphere of the ghetto:

I had the feeling that the end of the world was approaching in Poland, so I wanted to discover the life of other lands before it disappeared entirely. Morally and intellectually I was a tramp, a companion of the dispossessed.

He did all kinds of odd jobs: building labourer, miner in the lead and silver pits of Provence, deck hand in the merchant marine, fruit and vegetable porter in Les Halles. In Paris, he spent all his spare time in the lovely old Sainte-Geneviève library, the only one that stayed open at night and was centrally heated,

where he studied French language and literature all on his own. By 1938, he had completed the first draft of *Les Javanais*, the utterly frank account of his life as a miner in the "Java" lead and silver mine in Provence, in which all the stateless, homeless foreigners living outside the law could find

labouring work - and no awkward questions asked by the police. These marginals and clandestines were of all nationalities: Germans and Austrians who had fled the Führer's advance, Russians in bed odour with Stalin, Italians whose socialism had brought down the wrath of Mussolini upon them,

and tragicomic". It was published by Denclie in December 1939.

Trotsky wrote a famous review of it, which is included in his collected works, and it was given brilliant reviews in the French press. When at the age of 21 Malaquais finally received the news that his novel had been awarded the Prix Renaudot, he was sharing the general boredom of the drôle de guerre encamped in

'Morally and intellectually I was a tramp, a companion of the dispossessed'

Lorraine on the Maginot Line, and it was some days before his commanding officer could be persuaded to let him have leave to go to Paris to receive the award and sign thousands of copies of his book.

But the war began to make itself felt and with almost surprising ease the Nazis occupied France. Malaquais made his way to the free zone in the south of France, and in Marseilles met a number of writers and artists in a similar plight, hoping to find a ship to take them to the United States. Among Malaquais' friends were André Breton, Max Ernst, Victor Serge, Heinrich and Golo Mann, Franz Werfel and the

body of work in the form of novels, essays, plays and short stories. Only one novel, *Planète sans visa*, was published in France in 1947, and went unnoticed. While he was living in America, Malaquais became friendly with Norman Mailer, who was enthusiastic about his work.

Malaquais translated *The Naked and the Dead* into his suitably idiosyncratic French. His novel *Le Gaffeur* (1953) was prefaced by Mailer, as was a collection of short stories, *Coup de barre*. *Le Gaffeur* was translated into English in 1954 as *The Joker*, but the task of transforming the unique style of *Les Javanais* into readable English has apparently proved too daunting for our unadventurous publishing houses.

Finally, Jean Malaquais returned to Europe, where he lived most of the time in Geneva. His last work was a monumental study of Kierkegaard which was originally a thesis sustained at the Sorbonne. It was natural that he should be attracted by that unclassifiable outsider, the very untheological theologian and philosopher who was a forerunner of the existentialism Malaquais had been practising without knowing it all his life. Fortunately, *Les Javanais* has been brought back to life in a fine new edition (1995) by the excellent Phébus firm in Paris, which is the publisher of his *Journal de guerre* and which will reissue all his other deplorably neglected works.

JAMES KIRKUP

Wladimir Malaquais (Jean Malaquais), writer; born Warsaw 1908; died Geneva 22 December 1998.

Johnny Moore

resources in their day. Innovations have been a major part of the community and s. identified Bradford as a side-line. Its school, quite simply, is way you yourself created". novelised by the Interdisciplinary School of Bradford within Bradford in 1998, it consists of 18 as throughout the country's innovations are autho developed by its approach

T 1998 Kirwood Chair from Bradford was appointed as Professor of Psychology. He was the author of *Person to Person*, one of the year's best-sellers. He recently won a book of the year award for his contribution to re-pioneered several and training initiatives. In the care of people he most popular is the Approach and Developing. The unique idea is that it takes the person with the group's needs, taught nationally, the Bradford p. developed con. Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Ind. Japan, New Sweden, Switzerland. In 1998 he delivered Approach and Developing courses in the U.S. Training in Carolina in October was a great opportunity for emerging business entrepreneurs and semi-race talents. He was many people world had previously chapter. He re-introduced religious return to the art of the importance of "inner self". He had all life enjoyed the arts, dancing and play

By 1958, major surgery was needed

By the time the Drifters recorded "Pools Fall in Love" in New York the following year, Andrew Thrasher and Pinkney had been replaced by "Carnation" Charlie Hughes (baritone) and Tommy Evans (bass). They lost momentum and were soon eclipsed by the discharged McPhatter as Moore was in turn was also drafted.

JOHNNY MOORE was the stalwart vocalist with the American soul group The Drifters.

Over the course of a 45-year career, the ensemble had many line-up changes but, though he never attained the fame of the founder Clyde McPhatter or the lead singer Ben E. King, Moore was one of the few regulars. Indeed, he was the frontman when the Drifters hit a purple patch with eight British Top 10 hits in the mid-Seventies.

Originally formed in 1953 around the ex-Dominoes Clyde McPhatter and masterminded by George Treadwell as manager (then married to Sarah Vaughan), the Drifters were signed by the shrewd Ahmet Ertegun to Atlantic Records - already the home of the Coasters, Ray Charles, Joe Turner and LaVern Baker.

Having established themselves on the R&B scene with "Money Honey", "Such a Night" and "Honey Love", they stalled when their lead vocalist was drafted into the army in 1954 and his replacement David Vaughan didn't work out. *Bringing in Johnny Moore* to take over proved a masterstroke.

Born in Selma, Alabama, in 1934, Moore moved to Cleveland when he was a teenager. After singing in the church choir, he made his name with the Hornets, a doo-wop and gospel group. When the Drifters came to town, the young Johnny introduced himself backstage, showed off his falsetto and was hired on the spot.

He was first heard with the group on "Adorable", a single recorded in September 1955 under the supervision of Nesuhi Ertegun (Ahmet's brother) in Los Angeles. The song was a big hit and Atlantic soon released "Ruby Baby", a Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller composition culled from the same session. Backing Moore at the time were Gerhard Trasher (tenor), his brother Andrew (baritone) and Bill Pinkney (bass).

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By 1958, major surgery was needed

ed and Treadwell, who owned the rights to the group's name, sacked the entire line-up and hired the Crowns - whose lead singer was Charlie Thomas - to fulfil the Drifters' contractual obligations; they also assumed their name. Ben E. King was only in the studio to teach them his "There Goes My Baby" when he was asked to take over from Thomas (who continued to sing with the group) by the engineer Jerry Wexler.

Using soaring strings and a symphonic approach that prefigured the Spector wall of sound, Leiber and Stoller helped the Drifters cross over from the R&B market and hit No 2 on the pop charts. Following "Dance With Me", "This Magic Moment" and "Save the Last Dance For Me" (a US No 1), Ben E. King argued with Treadwell over salaries and royalties and left for a solo career which started on a high. The immortal "Spanish Harlem" and "Stand By Me" (which Treadwell had turned down) looked like overshadowing the Drifters but, thanks to Doc Pomus and Mort Shuman's "Sweets for My Sweet" (British No 1 for the Searchers in 1963) and Gerry Goffin and Carole King's sublime "Up on the Roof" the group came back in 1962.

After the gospel-like "On Broadway", the Drifters, now comprising Rudy Lewis, Charlie Thomas, Geno Pearson, Johnny Terry, Abdul Samad and the returning Johnny Moore - who had briefly attempted a solo career as Johnny Darrow -

When the Drifters came to town, Moore introduced himself backstage, showed off his falsetto and was hired on the spot

were due to record with the producers Bert Berns and Mike Leander in June 1964. When Lewis suddenly died of a heart attack on the day of the session, Moore stepped into the lead role once again and the Drifters cut the poignant "Under the Boardwalk", which reached No 4 in America.

On another roll, the Moore-led Drifters worked with the finest writers from the Brill Building, the New

York song factory. They cut Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann's "Saturday Night at the Movies" and Jeff Barry and Ellie Greenwich's "I'll Take You Where the Music's Playing" before losing direction as Atlantic made inroads into the rock market.

By 1971, the Drifters were relying on compilation albums and the cabaret circuit to earn a living. George Treadwell died and Faye, his second wife, assumed managerial control of the group still led by the trusted Johnny Moore (she later doc-

umented her trials and tribulations in *Save the Last Dance For Me: the musical legacy*, a book written with Tony Allan and published in 1993. The following year, Clyde McPhatter died but the Drifters came back stronger than ever.

Reissues of "At the Club" and "Come On Over to My Place" had been unlikely UK Top 10 hits in 1972 and the Drifters signed a deal with Bell Records the following year

different cities on the same night. Reuniting briefly with Ben E. King in 1984, Moore re-established his claim to the mantle but King left again when "Stand By Me" reached number one in 1987 after being featured in a Levi's television commercial.

By then the Drifters had been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, one of only three vocal groups at the time. Their huge repertoire of perennial million-sellers had become a staple of golden oldies stations and Bruce Willis thought nothing of impersonating Johnny Moore when covering "Under the Boardwalk" with the Temptations.

Beaming and smiling, Johnny Moore remained at the helm of the Drifters to the end. This versatile vocalist and supreme interpreter could

claim to have sung on more than 80 per cent of their records. Indeed, he sang "Come On Over to My Place" on the BBC television show *Winton's Wonderland* alongside Jimmy Nail, Jimmy Tarbuck and Barbara Windsor two weeks ago. It was a measure of how far Moore and the Drifters had travelled into the mainstream.

Tommy Hanley / Redferns

PIERRE PERRONE

John Darrel Moore, singer: born Selma, Alabama 15 December 1934; married (three sons); died London 30 December 1998.



Author of *I Am David*

never talks about the past, David sets out again, afraid he will be returned to the camp and to "them". After some massive coincidences and more opportunity eavesdropping, he finally learns to trust others and to put some of his past behind him. The last page sees him reunited with the mother he could not remember but always wanted to find.

By this time David is a more allegorical than real figure, with his suffering symbolising the tragedy of all displaced children after the war. The constant sense of danger on his picaresque journey gives his story a sense of tense excitement that combines well with its message about compassion and care.

Along with Ian Serraillier's fine novel *The Silver Sword* (1956) also about a child wandering through post-war Europe, she opened up some pages of recent history that normally kept closed to children. Not a radical in her own beliefs - she described herself as a conservative for king and parliament - she was however convinced that children needed "real, valuable literature" as well as "harmless entertainment".

Other books included *The Hostage* (1990), about the kidnapping of a Danish prime minister's son by a political opponent seeking to get Denmark out of Nato, and *The Sky Grew Red* (1992), which describes the firing of Copenhagen during the Napoleonic wars. But Holm was never a prolific writer. When asked to list her hobbies these included not just travelling, theatre, cooking, books, antiques and history but also the peace and quiet enjoyed with her son, two grandchildren and a succession of Yorkshire terriers, the favourite of whom is named Yorick.

An elegant, sharp-witted and charming companion, and for many years a close friend of Karen Blixen, she was not an obvious candidate for the writing of such a passionate story as *I Am David*. Yet she lived to see books written about her masterpiece. When translations from abroad were becoming increasingly rare in children's fiction, Anne Holm's achievement in spreading her humane message to such a huge, international young audience remains a proud one.

NICHOLAS TUCKER

Anne Lise Elfe, writer: born Aal, Jutland 10 September 1922; married 1949 Johan Holm (died 1987; one son); died 27 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

ALEXANDER: Marjorie Eugene, ARTHUR: IAN, film novelist, engineer, director, 1920-1998. Born in Wellington, New Zealand on 27 June 1913, died Bracknell, Berkshire on 1 January 1998. Funeral at Woking Crematorium on Monday 11 January at 1.30pm. No service, no kiss, burial for. She leaves a husband and his cat. Donations, however small, to the Cats Protection League, 17 King's Road, Horsham RH13 5PN.

KING: John, of High Littleton, died suddenly at his home on 4 January. Beloved husband of Jean, much loved Dad of Debbie, Simon, Tom and Lucy. A long and colourful BBC career. Will be missed and always remembered by his wife, Jean, and son, Paul, who served at Holy Trinity Church, High Littleton, near Bath on Friday 8 January at 3.30pm. Family flowers only.

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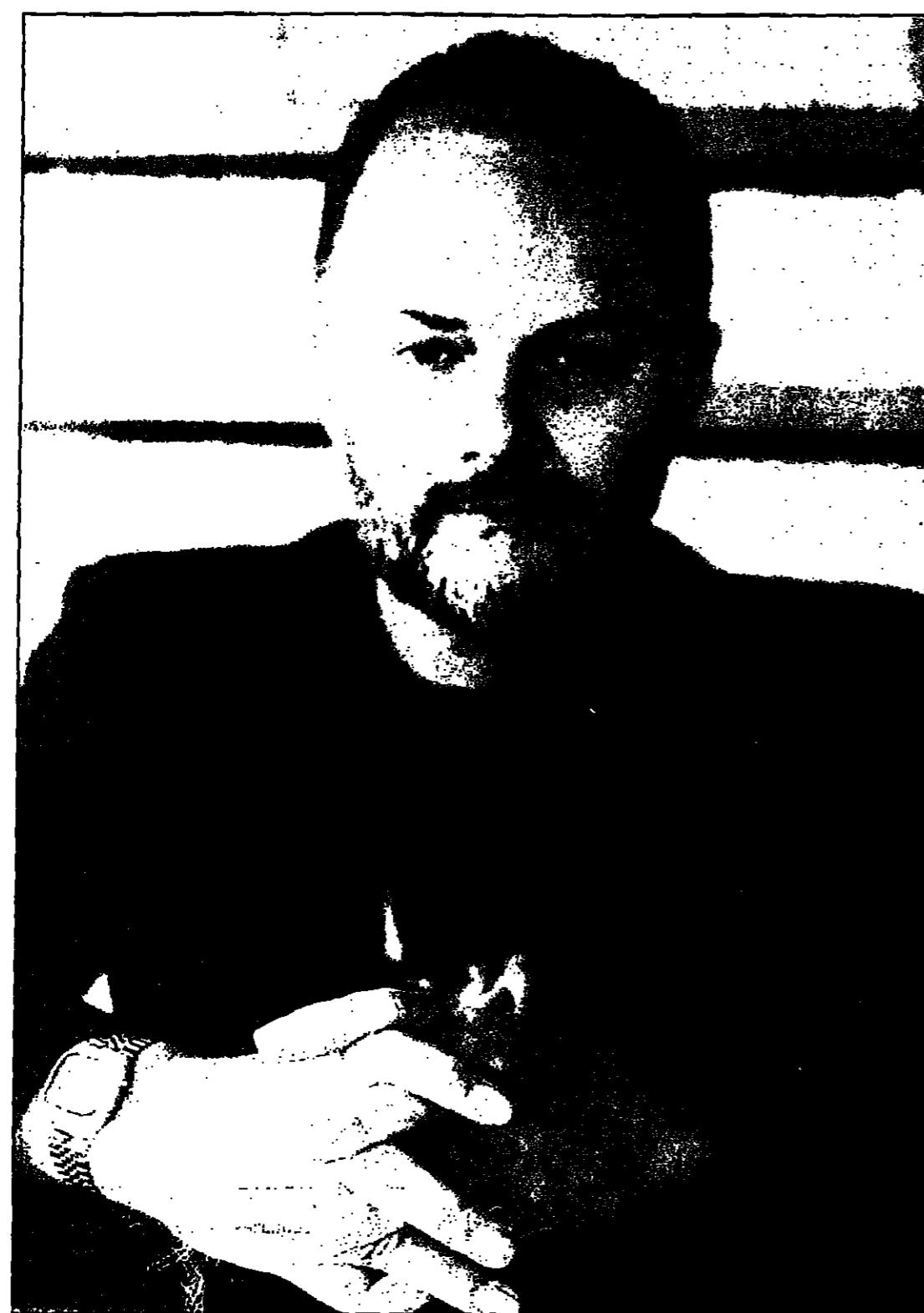
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You ask the questions

(Such as: John Peel, if you're such a nice guy why do you call your wife the Pig?)



Broadcaster John Peel, 59, was born in Heswall near Liverpool. After finishing his military service in 1962, he began his career as a DJ in America. In 1967 he returned to Britain and became one of the 22 DJs to launch Radio 1. He lives in Suffolk with his wife Sheila and they have four children.

Did you lose your indie credentials the day you met the Queen?
Jane Fisher, Leicester

I think the fact that I don't strive for "indie credentials" (whatever they might be) probably helps listeners come to terms with the fact that I could be their grandfather.

Don't you get bored with your Mr Nice Guy image?
Nigel Short, Nottingham

I'd rather people liked me than disliked me. There are times when I'd like to be a bit of a hooligan though.

Inside every quiet bloke there's a madman struggling to get out.

You're a 59-year-old landowner with an OBE – do you ever feel out of touch with your listeners?

Dan Lillier, Caversham

Having an OBE hasn't really transformed my life. A lot of people will claim before they are offered an honour of some sort, that they would turn it down. I did discuss it with the family and they said, "What would be the point of doing that?" and I couldn't come up with a convincing answer. We had a wonderful day out, it was incredibly interesting. My mum and dad would have been really proud of me. Do those read like excuses? As to the landowner, we have about eight acres. Two fields and scrubby copse, so it's hardly acres of rolling parkland with amusing follies and water features. I suspect listeners would be more appalled if I tried to be deeply street and a friend of the stars.

Which pop star fulfilled your expectations when you met them?

Wendy Spurkling, Norfolk

I liked John Lennon a lot. Elton John used to be a nice bloke. I don't know what he's like now. Polly Harvey scares me. Courtney Love was

really sweet to my daughters once. So was Kylie. I was able to get Tom Jones's autograph at Glastonbury.

You're well known for enjoying a happy marriage, so why do you call your wife the Pig?
Joe Morrison, Brighton

Sheila is called the Pig because she snorts when she laughs.

What was your most embarrassing moment on air?
Ken Holloway, Leicester

I took Bob Dylan's "Hurricane" off the turntable in the middle of playing it as a world exclusive. I do make a lot of mistakes on air. Cynics think I do it deliberately to be cute, but at my age? Come on. It's just that a) I'm listening to the records and b)

I play music from almost every for-

mat so, for example, 7" singles that

play at 33 1/2 can cause trouble.

Which band are you proudest of discovering?

Jack Steedman, Lewisham, London

I really don't think of myself as discovering bands – any more than a newspaper editor discovers the news. I'm quite proud of having helped to make people aware of Captain Beefheart, I suppose.

What was the first record you bought, and the most recent?

Calum Alder, Sheffield

"Blue Tango" by Ray Martin & His Concert Orchestra. Most recent –

"El Shaddai" by Jahmali (reggae).

Yes. It took the reins off everything from architecture to literature. You can see it in a more personal way in the clothes and haircuts of people in our village shop, anywhere. Liberation, that's what it was and it liberated itself from the entrepreneurs who sought to control it too.

Which do you think is the most innovative album of all time?
Jasmine Ewens, Stroud

Trouve Mask Replica (Captain Beefheart) still sounds pretty astonishing to me.

Which band has given you the most pleasure over the years?
Emily Cohen, Chelmsford

The Fall – they are always the same but always different.

If you had to have a DJ moniker, what would it be?
Jessica Harris, Essex

DJ Pretty Tired would suit.

Does your wife ever tell you to turn the music down?
Angie Clifford, York

Sometimes, if she's on the phone. She does pretty much like the same stuff, although she's never come to terms with country.

Can you tell me something you haven't told a newspaper before?
Jo Stoppard, Camden, London

My late mother's boyfriend was Darth Vader in Return of the Jedi.

Which means the most to you, Liverpool Football Club or The Fall?
Zoe Tait, Liverpool

Liverpool.

Is there any musical genre that you don't like?
Anna Leto, Hove

I have trouble with opera and anything by Benjamin Britten.

What was your drug of choice in the Sixties?
Penny Evans, Cardiff

I smoked lots of grass in California.

What's your new year resolution?
Dale Thomson, Cambridge

To read more books, see more films, do something other than listen to 12" dance remixes all day.

NEXT WEEK

DAYTIME TV PRESENTERS RICHARD AND JUDY, FOLLOWED BY TARA PALMER-TOMKINSON



Send questions for TV husband-and-wife team Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan, or "it" girl Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, to: You Ask The Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2122; e-mail yourquestions@independent.co.uk) by noon on Friday, 8 January

Do you play obscure indie music just to be different? Surely you can't really like it?

Chris Norton, Hampstead, London

I don't play anything I don't like. I'm just curious to hear things I've not heard before, so I gravitate towards what you style "obscure", remembering John Lennon's dictum that avant-garde is French for bullshit.

When will you start listening to jazz, folk and classical music like most men your age?

Vic Shepherd, Whitstable

I listen to jazz on programmes introduced by Humphrey Lyttleton – a bit of a broadcasting hero – and I listen to Radio 3 a lot, mainly, in the hope of hearing something amazing I'd missed before. It still happens.

What would you be doing if you weren't a DJ?

Alex Deacon, Mansfield

I often wonder that myself.

Did punk change anything?

Sam North, Wrexham

The mystery of innocent lives cut short

Marie Bentham's case may seem an isolated tragedy but more children than we think have a hand in their own deaths. By Jack O'Sullivan

Typically, a girl of eight is a wondrous being. Going on holiday, wearing a new outfit, preparing for Christmas, are all so exciting. Others in the playground say Santa no longer exists, but more than likely she still believes in him. The age of innocence has yet to be superseded by the enigma and knowledge of adolescence. Animal Hospital, Barbie dolls, the latest Disney film, trips to McDonald's, preoccupy her. She still thinks people get pregnant by kissing.

You do not expect a child of this age to hang herself.

Yet last Saturday night Marie Bentham was found dead in her bedroom by her mother, Debbie. She was hanging from her skipping rope. Only a week before, on Boxing Day, she had celebrated her birthday in her home at Irlam, Greater Manchester.

The details surrounding Marie's death are unclear. It seems that, like many a contemporary, she had a row with her mother about going to bed early to prepare for the start of the new term. Like many eight-year-olds, Marie could get very worked up about school. She did not want to go back, because she was being bullied. Then, rushing off to bed at 8pm, upset, she hanged herself. When her mother found her at 10.30pm she could not revive her.

This is a dreadful story that

cannot simply be brushed aside

on the grounds of its being excep-

tional. For, though cases of

childhood suicide are rare, this

partly reflects the reluctance of

coroners to ascribe such a ver-

dict. The numbers of children

who have had a hand in their

own deaths is significant.



Marie Bentham was found dead by her mother, hanging from a skipping-rope in her bedroom. Carendish

In Great Britain, between 1990 and 1995, recorded suicides averaged fewer than seven a year for children under 15. But a broader category – suicides and undetermined deaths (mainly open verdicts) – averaged 60 deaths, of which about 40 per cent were girls. The Samaritans point out that some of these deaths can probably be attributed to unproven child abuse. But there are still a considerable number of children killing themselves.

So we need to think a bit more carefully about the risk to eight-year-olds such as Marie Bentham. Most experts point out that the suicide danger to this age group is low. "They are much more likely to be compe-

ited with psychosomatic ailments like tummy aches," says Dr Guinevere Tufnell, a child and adolescent psychiatrist in East London.

"It is extremely unusual

to come across a case of

suicide... they have a limited

sense of cause and effect. It is

hard for them to compute that

they can kill themselves.

However, children can have odd ideas about what happens after death, which can put them in danger. "An eight-year-old may think that being dead means that they go to heaven, which is a rather nice place,"

says Dr Tufnell. "They may think that dying will allow them to join someone special – a loved one or a pet. But they do not necessarily understand it as a permanent state of affairs."

The Samaritans agree, saying that whereas children over 12 tend to have a full awareness

of the finality of death, younger children do not. Some believe

death to be a reversible process

during which the deceased can still see and hear.

This difference in understand-

ing between the two age groups has two consequences.

First, it is difficult to ascribe the

term "suicide" to a child under

12, since it is so hard for them

to think of themselves ending

their lives for ever. But under-

lying this is the fact that

children under 12 are less likely

to commit suicide than older chil-

dren. This is because they are less

likely to have the skills and knowl-

edge to carry out a suicide attempt.

Second, children under 12 are less

likely to be aware of the risks of

suicide than older children. This

is because they are less likely to

have the skills and knowl-

edge to carry out a suicide attempt.

Third, children under 12 are less

likely to be aware of the risks of

suicide than older children. This

is because they are less likely to

have the skills and knowl-

edge to carry out a suicide attempt.

Fourth, children under 12 are less

likely to be aware of the risks of

suicide than older children. This

is because they are less likely to

have the skills and knowl-

edge to carry out a suicide attempt.

Fifth, children under 12 are less

likely to be aware of the risks of

suicide than older children. This

is because they are less likely to

have the skills and knowl-

edge to carry out a suicide attempt.

Sixth, children under 12 are less

likely to be aware of the risks of

suicide than older children. This

is because they are less likely to

have the skills and knowl-

edge to carry out a suicide attempt.

Seventh, children under 12 are less

likely to be aware of the risks of

suicide than older children. This

is because they are less likely to

have the skills and knowl-

edge to carry out a suicide attempt.

Eighth



JESSICA OGDEN

JESSICA OGDEN
red kimono, £750; cream silk scarf top, £165. To order:
Jessica Ogden, a Jamaican designer working in London, creates individual pieces of clothing with an artistic aesthetic. From working with Oxfam's NoLoGo re-using clothes and materials donated to the charity, Jessica went on to start her own line in 1993. She uses antique and distressed fabrics, visibly darning and stitching them. Her clients include Björk, Neneh Cherry and Tori Amos. She has exhibited her work in various galleries and shops including The Pineal Eye in London. Jessica is a working proof that recycled garments but can be unique and beautiful (enquiries, 0171-251 8861)



PLANET VISION

PLANET VISION
light blue vest, £21; dark blue long-sleeved top, £34.50;
drawstring green trousers £44.50.
This company was recently launched in Britain with Dutchman Gert Krannendijk at the helm, and though mainly selling wholesale can also cater for mail order. All products are organically produced in cotton and hemp. The range, although basic in design, has unusual fabrics and garments such as bras and leggings in cotton-Lycra, brushed cotton fleeces, and naturally occurring coloured cotton which is bred (not genetically engineered) in the States, and comes in earth tones. They hope to manufacture in Europe, and possibly Africa (enquiries and catalogue, 0181-533 7766)



CONSCIOUS EARTHWEAR

CONSCIOUS EARTHWEAR
red fleece dress, £105.
Sarah Ratty started the Conscious Earthwear company in 1993, turning her hobby into a business - the idea being to make fashionable clothes from environmentally friendly fabrics. At least 50 per cent of the items made adhere to these principles, and mainly use materials that bear the Ecotex logo, a European standard that indicates that textile manufacturing processes are ecologically sound. They have used hemp linen and jersey in their spring summer '99 collection. This fleece is made from recycled plastic bottles, which make a versatile modern fabric. Available from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 (enquiries, 0171-253 4802)



PREEN

PREEN
red recycled leather coat, to order.
Justin Thornton and Thea Bregazzi launched Preen in 1995. A part of the collection is made with used fabrics such as tweed, silk and leather. Justin designed for Helen Storey's Second Life range. "People like the fact that our recycled items are one-offs," says Thornton. They are supported by Kate Moss, Honor Fraser, Liv Tyler and Justine Frischmann. Prices from £30 to £240. Preen, 5 Portobello Green, 281 Portobello Road, London W10 (enquiries, 0181-968 1542).



KOMODO

KOMODO
blue Yeti knitted coat, £100; hemp denim jeans, £60. Headed by Mark Bloom, the company has been producing environmentally conscious streetwear for 10 years. Fabrics are sourced for ethical and environmental qualities, eg the jacket above is made in Nepal by exiled Tibetans using traditional techniques and organic dyes. Other fabrics include recycled plastic fleece, hemp-mix jersey and banana leaves. Michelle Mullins, formerly of Maharishi, is now on board to sharpen up the design (enquiries, 0171-490 8101)



PATAGONIA

PATAGONIA
yellow fleece £69.95; organic blue jeans, £59.95; brown boots by Birkenstock, £110. Started in the late Sixties in California, by a group of surfers and climbers, Patagonia gives a percentage of profits to environmental groups. It was the first company to use recycled fleece in 1993, uses only organic cotton, and continues to find and develop high-performance low-impact materials. Available from branches of Snow and Rock (enquiries, 0171-831 6900)



AMANO

AMANO
red, hooded cable-knit sweater, £50. The company started in 1988, from a stall in Camden market, and now supplies shops around the country. Fabrics are carefully sourced for ethical and environmental values. A lot of the knitwear is hand-spun and dyed in Bolivia. Recycled knitwear is made from wool, hemp, denim and plastic bottles. The sweater pictured is hand-knitted from English wool with low-impact dyes. Amano, Chalk Farm Road London NW1 (enquiries, 0171-267 6918)



GREENFIBRES

GREENFIBRES
natural cotton/silk long-sleeved vest, £35; hemp jeans with recycled metal buttons, £96. This mail order company is the brainchild of Gaby and William Lana. All fabrics are either organic or chemical-free, and make as low an impact as possible on the environment. The clothing is of basic design, not high fashion, but certainly made to last. The catalogue includes underwear and baby clothes as well as information about the processes of making the garments. Greenfibres (enquiries, 01803 868 001)

Eco-centrics

Is it possible to be both fashionable and environmentally friendly? The textile industry poses serious threats to the environment, from the chemicals used in fabric production, through to the pollutants contained in most clothes detergents. The fashion industry depends upon people buying new clothes each year, creating an estimated £30bn worth of unused clothing sitting in Britain's wardrobes. Yet they go on churning them out, and we continue to buy them. Environmentalism is still associated with the "new age" look of the early Nineties, with natural hemp and wooden love beads, or with the traveller trends of dreadlocks, combat gear and Peruvian sweaters. But we need not dress like Neil from *The Young Ones* to wear environmentally sympathetic clothing. The clothes featured here are all wearable, fashionable, and made with the health of the environment in mind.

By Hannah Hunter. Photographs by Suzy del Campo

Hair and make-up by Lisa Moore at Julie Bramwell Represents, using Stila. Model Tenzin at Select

VEGETARIAN SHOES

VEGETARIAN SHOES
mules by Deja, £45; ribbed hemp socks by Natural Collection, £15 for three; black organic cotton tights, £15. Vegetarian Shoes was started in Brighton in 1990 by Robyn Webb, an ex-art student who had been scouring the country for a breathable, non-plastic alternative to leather. He now stocks an impressive range alongside his own, including the American label, Deja, made from recycled materials such as tyre rubber and wet-suit off-cuts. From 12 Gardner Street, Brighton BN1. 1UP (mail order, 01273 691 913)

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

BIRKENSTOCK, one of the first companies to carry out an environmental audit, uses low-impact dyes, sustainable cork and natural latex (mail order, 0800 132 194), and from The Natural Shoe Store, Neal Street, London WC2.

The Natural Collection catalogue has some clothing plus organic chocolate and recycled computers - organic cotton tights, cotton-hemp

mix socks, babyclothes (01225 442 288). Earth 33 uses organic denim, recycled fleece and hemp (Ground Zero, 77 Beaumont Street, London W1, Cuba, 13 Trinity Street, Dublin 01273 699 016). Hemp Corporation, 24 Church Street, Brighton, for herbal goods and clothing. Jeavon's of Piccadilly make luxurious sweaters from discarded knitwear (0171-488 4722).

SECRETARIAL

'Leaning in the doorway is a wizened gnome'
THE TEMP

PAGE 14

Margaret Howell

WINTER SALE

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And nothing but the truth

The Tricycle Theatre's riveting staging of the Scott Inquiry into the 'arms to Iraq' affair was so eye-opening that it was summoned to appear at the House of Commons. Now the same theatre is taking on the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. By Dominic Cavendish



The Parents
Doreen and Neville Lawrence, mother and father of the murder victim



The Victim
Stephen Lawrence, whose murder caused the public inquiry



The Suspects
The five men accused but never convicted of Lawrence's murder



The Policeman
Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner



The Lawyer
Michael Mansfield QC, Counsel for the Lawrence family

There are moments in history when plays write themselves and all we have to do is bear witness. Nicolas Kent, the artistic director of the Tricycle Theatre, believes this passionately, and with good reason. A number of the most powerful dramatic experiences in recent memory seem to have materialised within the walls of his Kilburn home, the pay-off for a rare commitment to show the public things it doesn't usually see. In 1994, Kent staged re-enactments from the Scott Inquiry into the 'arms to Iraq' affair, *Half the Picture*. There followed two reconstructed war crimes tribunals, *Nuremberg* and *Srebrenica*. From tonight, for one month, the show is called *The Colour of Justice*, a dramatised version of the inquiry - ordered by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and conducted by Sir William Macpherson - into the death of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence.

The truth is always shocking. With *Half the Picture*, the frisson of mischievous delight caused by seeing actors showing the political élite at their embarrassed, squirming worst was tempered by hearing the verbatim language of governmental duplicity. The manner with which the captured Nazi high command denied their guilt in *Nuremberg* had members of the audience screaming out in rage. *Srebrenica* - based on the Rule 61 Hearings against the Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić at The Hague - caused ugly scenes during discussions. In the case of anything related to Stephen Lawrence, a quiet night

out at the theatre is not an option. The *Colour of Justice* raises issues that are uncomfortably close to home. The title is harder-hitting than the inquiry's terms of reference: "matters arising from the death of Stephen Lawrence on 22 April 1993 to date". As Kent admits: "The case touches the whole simmering race argument in this country. It is nearer people's everyday experience. It hurts people personally more." It hurts the Lawrences personally most, but the family has, crucially, indicated that it is not opposed to the production.

The justification, as before, is the need to provide the public with a clearer

case of Stephen Lawrence - the inquiry owes its existence to the perceived systematic failure of the Metropolitan Police to bring the murderer teenager's killers to justice - nothing can be assumed.

Richard Norton-Taylor, the *Guardian* journalist responsible for editing all the previous projects except *Srebrenica*, spent three months last year extracting 1 percent of material from a small forest's worth of paper while commuting to and from work by bus. Almost 11,000 pages of transcript have been whittled down to 100 pages of playscript. Fifty-six days of evidence-giving - a welter of allegations, admissions and rebuttals - have been condensed into two-and-a-half hours of drama.

But theatre, especially when it is as intimate as the Tricycle, creates a shift of emphasis, intensifying the emotional involvement of the audience. On the one hand, this creates an opportunity for a shared experience. "The fact that you are sitting there with strangers, all feeling a common indignation, a common passion, is immensely strengthening," Kent argues. "It restores theatre's ancient role as part of the democratic process."

On the other hand, there is the risk that the increased sense of involvement may impede greater understanding: watching police officers on the rack could simply become a spectator sport. Richard Norton-Taylor is anxious to avoid that.

The validity of that fourth reconstruction may appear self-evident, especially since the inquiry's findings are due to be published in a matter of weeks. But given the huge controversy surrounding the

overview than that offered by contemporaneous media coverage - a piecemeal approach made patchier by disallowing the presence of TV cameras at public inquiries. Anyone wanting a synopsis of events will be well served. The failure to give any first aid to the victim, to follow up leads, to make arrests, to keep notes, to conduct adequate internal inquiries: the depressing details spanning three abortive investigations are all there.

The validity of that fourth reconstruction

is the practical incompetence of the police is shown, as is the thread of racism, conscious or unconscious, that lies behind it. There's also a hint of corruption. The

language that many of the police witnesses use often damns them." However, he insists: "This shouldn't turn into a pillorying of the police. It would be wrong if it turned into some form of medieval entertainment."

He is confident that, though by definition partial, the piece is not unfairly biased. He even worried that literariness itself might be deemed unjust. "Aside from the fact that very few of the sentences make grammatical sense, I wondered whether it was fair to set down in stone remarks made by the police while being questioned," he explains. "I thought perhaps these people might be singled out and demonised. But I realised that they stay pretty anonymous."

The exchanges lifted range from the immediately disturbing to those that cast the witnesses in a more sympathetic light. The police are shown blatantly contradicting themselves, and the sinister repeated refrain of "I don't remember" echoes the non-co-operation of the five chief suspects (only one of whom, Jamie Acourt, is featured). Against that, there are other remarks to take into consideration - a reference to a birthday card delivered by one of the family liaison officers, say, or the admission of racial prejudice by a bystander who went out of his way to help the investigation.

Kent believes that *The Colour of Justice* has all the hallmarks of great drama: "It has intellectual rigour, flashes of humour, emotional conflicts, and an important quality of mystery and ambiguity."

Some of the more evasive responses re-

call the civil-servant-speak of *Half the Picture*, while some of the slip-ups might be termed farcical were it not for the tragic circumstances. At one point, Michael Mansfield QC, counsel for the Lawrence family, referring to a corrupt officer known only as XX, jokes: "This is becoming like a Pinter play with surreal references."

In a Pinter play there is wide scope for interpretation. An air of menace surrounds those circling questions and answers. Here, though, the onus falls on the actors not to overplay any ambiguity. There is a responsibility to represent the characters as faithfully as possible - the

There is a responsibility to represent characters as faithfully as possible

method is to "inhabit" rather than imitate. Sitting in on rehearsals upstairs at the Tricycle, it becomes clear that those playing the police witnesses have the hardest task.

Both Jeremy Clyde, who is playing Edmund Lawson, counsel to the inquiry, and their real-life counterparts, Mansfield was by far the more theatrical of the two - but the sincerity of neither was in doubt. By contrast, those playing the police had no access to the originals and have had to rely on tapes and intuition, building up the body language through the words. How much their characters are performing (many were accused of "going through the

motions"), is, though, one of the implicit unresolved questions of the inquiry. At one point, Mark Penfold, who plays William Illsley - formerly detective chief superintendent in charge of the investigation into Lawrence's murder - asks if he can rattle through his scene with Mansfield at twice the speed, in order not to appear to be weighing up each response. "It can feel as though you are doing far too much, or commenting on your character. But if you play it totally neutrally, that's not how it happened, either - the police got very rattled when accusations were made."

Likewise Tim Woodward, playing Assistant Commissioner Ian Johnston, has a spot of bother reading out the formal apology to Neville Lawrence. "You've got to be really careful with that character," Kent urges. "If you're not, you're patronising him. He's a man with limited sensitivities but he's got to think he's being enormously sensitive."

There is no doubt the sensitivity of Nicolas Kent and his team, but it is a sensitivity that carries clout. Some good may come of *The Colour of Justice*. "Stephen Lawrence's murderers are not going to be brought to justice, any more than Karadžić and Mladić are," says Kent, "but at least what happened is being rehearsed in public, and the wrong done to the Lawrences by the people who killed their son is aired. That must be a healing process."

The Colour of Justice, Tricycle Theatre, London NW6 (0171-328 1000) previews from tonight to 6 Feb

DEBUT: EDWARD PETHERBRIDGE

The role: Barney Blue-Eyes in the school play
The year: 1946
The place: St Stephen's School, Bradford

I THINK I first wanted to be an actor at the age of seven and when I saw the great - and I'm sure he was great - panto dame and comedian Norman Evans. I was mesmerised. I was sitting in the gods of Bradford Alhambra and it seemed to be the best view of the town I'd ever had.

Suddenly I was taken out of the grim soot-ridden backstreets where I lived by the sight of this beautiful golden-lit stage. When I went home, I immediately built a cardboard proscenium arch toy theatre, which was like a talisman, a reminder of this visionary scene. For a long while I wanted to be a set designer, but the art teacher at our grammar

school wouldn't let anyone from C-stream anywhere near his model set.

My first public appearance was in my last year at elementary school. I can't remember the name of the play, but I remember that my first line on the English stage was: "Good morning, Mrs Lollipop, I've brought the eggs you wanted. Six, I think you wanted." It must have got a bit of a laugh because no one ever saw six eggs at that time.

My character was called Barney Blue-Eyes. I don't have blue eyes, so it must have been talent rather than typecasting that got me the role. I remember there was a big picnic scene, featuring extras from the lower class who were supposed to be getting strawberries and cream which, again, was a dream in those days.

On the day, they rather



acting lesson - I probably saw it in less sophisticated terms, back then.

Anyway, I must have misbehaved sometime later because I was sent to see the headmaster, which meant only one thing in those days - the cane, an instrument that was used with immense lavishness. But I didn't get punished. The head said: "It's Barney Blue-Eyes, isn't it? That was absolute perfect casting for you." It was somehow an acknowledgement that I had put my head above the parapet and glowed a little bit. He chased me back to the classroom, but I still managed to make a dignified actor's entrance.

Edward Petherbridge appears in *Krupp's Last Tape* and *Breath* at the Arts Theatre, London, WC2 (0171-336 2132) until 6 February

surprised us by issuing the strawberries and cream in the form of jelly on saucers. It was quite an event - we didn't get treats at that school. It went like a riot to the senses and I became aware that the audience was finding everything very funny. What had happened was that a stage full of children had stopped being self-conscious and trying to act, and were just being. It was a realistic coup. Something dramatic. It could have been my first

Half-way out of the closet

NOEL COWARD used to main-

tain that his refusal to come clean about being gay sprang from a *solicitous wish not to disillusion* all those harmless middle-aged ladies in Goring-by-Sea who "harboured secret desires" for him. But there was also the tiny matter of the laws of England which, until 1967, made him a criminal. Then again, the conjunction in his work of a gay sensibility and ostensibly heterosexual relations had a potent across-the-board appeal. Can a man forced to lead a double life sacrifice too much in the interests of success? What emotional damage does such concealment inflict? The Coward centenary kicks off with a revival of the 1966 play *A Song at Twilight*, in which the Master finally brought himself to address these questions openly, if evasively.

The ironies surrounding this current production are rather more interesting than the pro-

REVIEW

A SONG AT TWILIGHT
KING'S HEAD THEATRE
LONDON

duction itself, which lacks confidence and definition. It is directed by the theatre critic Sheridan Morley, whose own pioneering biography of Coward, published in the late Sixties, had to keep mum about the love that had, by that time, in other quarters dared to speak its name. For all the criticisms *A Song at Twilight* levels at its hero, Coward was in basic agreement with his self-protective pessimism about uprooting prejudice. This hero, Sir Hugo Latymer, an eminent elderly author who has resorted to the camouflage of a long, presumably sexless marriage, is played well here by Corin Redgrave - a piquant choice because he has himself written a most sensitive and insightful

book about the bisexual double life of his celebrated father, Sir Michael, one of whose male lovers was... Noel Coward.

Set in a private suite in a luxurious Swiss hotel, the play explores the crisis precipitated by the arrival of Carlotta, an actress still smarting from an affair in the distant past with Hugo. At the end of a sparring dinner à deux, she reveals that she has in her possession letters Hugo wrote to the male love of his life, whom he dumped in pursuit of success. The skirmishes between this reunited pair are, in this production, desperately uneven. Nyree Dawn Porter's faltering delivery and smilily apologetic manner are at odds with the amused, tantalising aplomb and mettlesome truculence with which she should keep us and Hugo guessing. And she looks most extraordinary: the hair is Goldie Hawn, the wrinkles more Goldie Meir - odd, given the repeated references

in the text to Carlotta's amazing face-lifts.

Redgrave is in a different

league (as is Kika Markham, excellent as a long-suffering German wife). Exuding all the petulant self-centredness and grandeur of someone who has spent his life playing Queen Bee in a silk dressing-gown, Redgrave also brilliantly hints at an underlying thrombosis of despair. The play behaves as though Coward's own body of work was free from the emotional emptiness it detects in Hugo. Not so. Rewind the clock by two decades or so and Hugo is revealed as, essentially, Garry Essendine, the spoilt Coward alter ego in *Present Laughter*, a play that significantly pays all the penalties of pretend heterosexuality.

PAUL TAYLOR

A shorter version of this review appeared in the later editions of yesterday's paper

It's time that the law offered flat leaseholders protection from disreputable managing agents, says Karen Woolfson

Key to a flatowner's dream

It has taken years, but at long last the Government appears prepared to take action to protect long-suffering leaseholders. Managing agents of blocks of flats will be required to obey tough new rules on how they manage the flat owners' affairs, according to proposals published in December. But leaseholders, local councils and even reputable agents are asking: "Who will license the managers?"

Increasingly, campaigners argue that the central plank of leasehold reform must be to regulate managers and managing agents. Otherwise, the Government's proposals will fail to create the framework necessary and will be incapable of operating as intended.

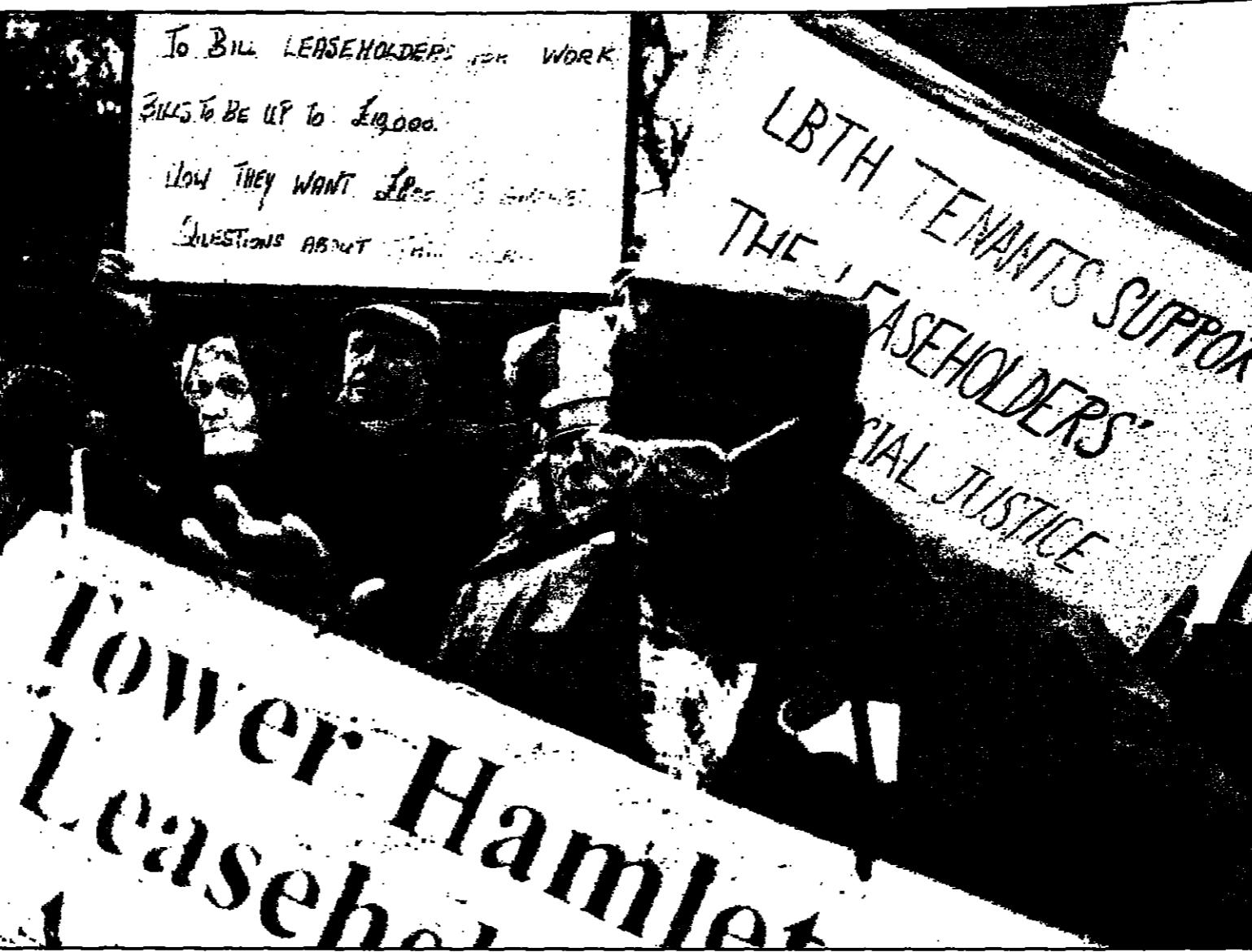
Kathryn Greig, a representative on the working group that is ad-

The central plank of leasehold reform must be to regulate managers and managing agents

ing the Government on leasehold reform says: "The signals are clear. Leaseholders currently have legal rights to information about service charges and to see supporting documentation, for example, but in practice these rights can be very difficult and costly to enforce."

The proposals for a no-fault right for leaseholders to manage their blocks and making it simpler to purchase their freehold collectively are admirable, but there is no point in introducing change without creating a solid framework. The key is regulation. Until there are limitations on the way people manage properties, there are just too many opportunities for disreputable managers and agents to take advantage of their power. Regulation and licensing have to be statutory. It should also be made a duty for councils to enforce legislation, so they have no choice on whether or not to prosecute."

Ms Greig believes that approved codes of conduct, such as those pre-



Campaigners want legislation to make it harder for disreputable managing agents to take advantage of their clients

managers have tampered with service charge accounts, the Deakinse believe.

The Government has acknowledged the need for controlling managers and agents, but it is uncertain what form this will take. The consultation document on leasehold reform accepts, for example, that the current safeguards are not adequate to ensure the manager provides cost-effective insurance cover. This is due to the widespread practice of landlords placing insurance for a block of flats to maximise commission rather than give value for money to its leaseholders.

The document suggests requiring the manager to disclose any commission he receives on the insurance and periodically reviewing the level of cover as well as premiums. The new rules could also

A regulator should be given the power to license managers and punish those who flout the rules

make it a requirement that if leaseholders secure an alternative quote from an insurer which is 10 per cent or more below the existing or proposed premium, the manager would be obliged to accept it unless his preferred insurer were able to match it.

Leasehold organisations welcome these developments. But they want people to focus on tightening existing legislation, so that managers are legally required to produce every single invoice to support the service charge accounts.

"If there is nothing to hide, why hide it?" they ask.

Karen Woolfson welcomes comments for her column. Write to: Homebattles c/o Nic Cicuti, Personal Finance section, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Karen regrets she is unable to reply personally to all letters

Mark Chilvers

Brighton and Hove council, for which she works, will be setting up a pilot scheme for the licensing of managers and agents. Applicants for licences will be required to give details of their background and career and will have to conform to rigorous standards. Those who have, for example, been found guilty of offences relating to the mismanagement of money will not be licensed, and this fact will be publicised.

Ms Greig believes that approved codes of conduct, such as those pre-

pared by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, do not go far enough. Barry Gardiner MP, chairman of the all-party parliamentary group on leasehold reform, stresses this point: "The voluntary code of the Association of Residential Managing Agents has clearly not been effective to date and when managing agents are dealing with other people's money, it is vital that this is covered by statutory regulation."

Peter and Wendy Deakinse, who live in a flat in London, own a share

of the freehold following the collective enfranchisement of the block some years ago. They have contested the service charges of their block and are unhappy with the way it is being run by directors who are also leaseholders.

Mr Deakinse says: "Enfranchisement isn't working. A managing company should be required to follow a standard legal format containing extensive rules and regulations. Every sum in the service charge accounts, whatever

size, should be itemised; there should be absolute transparency; and every single invoice, receipt and all the supporting documentation should be provided to leaseholders within 21 days of a request. Full details of the service charge accounts should be put on the internet and given as a legal requirement to an industry regulator," Mr Deakinse adds.

The Deakinse believe a regulator should be given the power to license managers, while meting out

heavy fines and striking off people who flout the rules. The latter should apply to managers and agents who fail to present the service charges according to legal requirements; produce the full set of invoices (which must be made a key legal requirement), receipts and other supporting documentation.

Fines should also apply to failure to produce independently audited accounts each year; and failure to hold an AGM. Imprisonment for the worst offenders should be imposed where

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Unite and rule: the brave new ombudsman's world

It sounds great – an all-embracing ombudsman scheme instead of the eight existing ones. But will consumers lose out? By John Andrew

IN THE past few weeks I have looked at the main financial ombudsman schemes, where aggrieved consumers can take their complaints if they fail to reach satisfaction with providers of financial services.

Unsurprisingly consumers do not always know to whom they should address their complaints – last year 10 per cent of complaints received by the Banking Ombudsman should have been directed elsewhere.

However this confusion will soon end. Next year, an all-embracing service will be born, spawned by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the regulatory regime launched last October which will eventually regulate all providers of financial services in the UK and replace the current regulators.

A single Financial Services Ombudsman scheme is to replace the eight schemes covering the financial sector. They are: the Banking, Building Society, Insurance, Investment and Personal Investment Authority Ombudsman schemes, the Personal Insurance Arbitration Service, the SFA Complaints Bureau and Arbitration Services and the FSA Independent Investigator.

The establishment of the single ombudsman scheme is set out in the draft Financial Services and Markets Bill. Operating as a company, it will be established by the FSA but will work independently.

The FSA will be integrating the existing schemes as opposed to starting from scratch – the existing schemes have built up considerable expertise and it would be foolhardy to dispense with their knowledge.

The FSA has been working with the ombudsman steering group, which has Laurie Slade as an independent chairman.



Consumers' hopes are in the balance

formed, the Ombudsman Scheme's board (OSB) will be appointed – its key role being to decide the structure of the new scheme.

Priorities for the OSB will be:

- examining the scope of bringing all the schemes together under one roof;
- considering the practicalities of integration before the legislation is in place;
- ensuring that the scheme will retain the benefits of flexibility and informality;
- working on its detailed design, particularly its organisational structure and case-handling procedures.

When the limited company that will run the scheme is

man Scheme has its critics. One leading campaigner for consumer rights, who was in the running for membership of the OSB but declared himself unavailable, suggested that an immoveable monster was being created. And the most recent annual reports of the existing schemes have also expressed concerns. For example, the council of the Building Society Ombudsman Scheme stated: "An ombudsman scheme should bear no resemblance to the process of going to law, which is a very expensive way to resolve disputes and one that consumers find daunting."

"An ombudsman offers a mechanism that is independent, fair, informal, flexible and speedy. We have concerns that the single ombudsman may not produce these benefits."

As the new scheme is to be compulsory for regulated firms and is to issue binding decisions, it will be a requirement under the European Convention on Human Rights to make provisions for oral hearings. Apart from the attendant cost of these changes, some observers feel that the informality and flexibility of the current schemes will be lost.

It will also be interesting to see whether the public and providers of financial services will regard an adjudication scheme run under the auspices of the regulator as truly independent.

Should it not be viewed as completely separate from the FSA, there is the danger that the scheme will be perceived by consumers as another piece of regulatory bureaucracy. Hopefully the OSB will ensure that the scheme is an improvement on the existing arrangements and is absolutely independent. Only time will tell.

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Euro pirates sail in

The arrival of the euro could lead to an increase in money laundering. By Rachael Claye

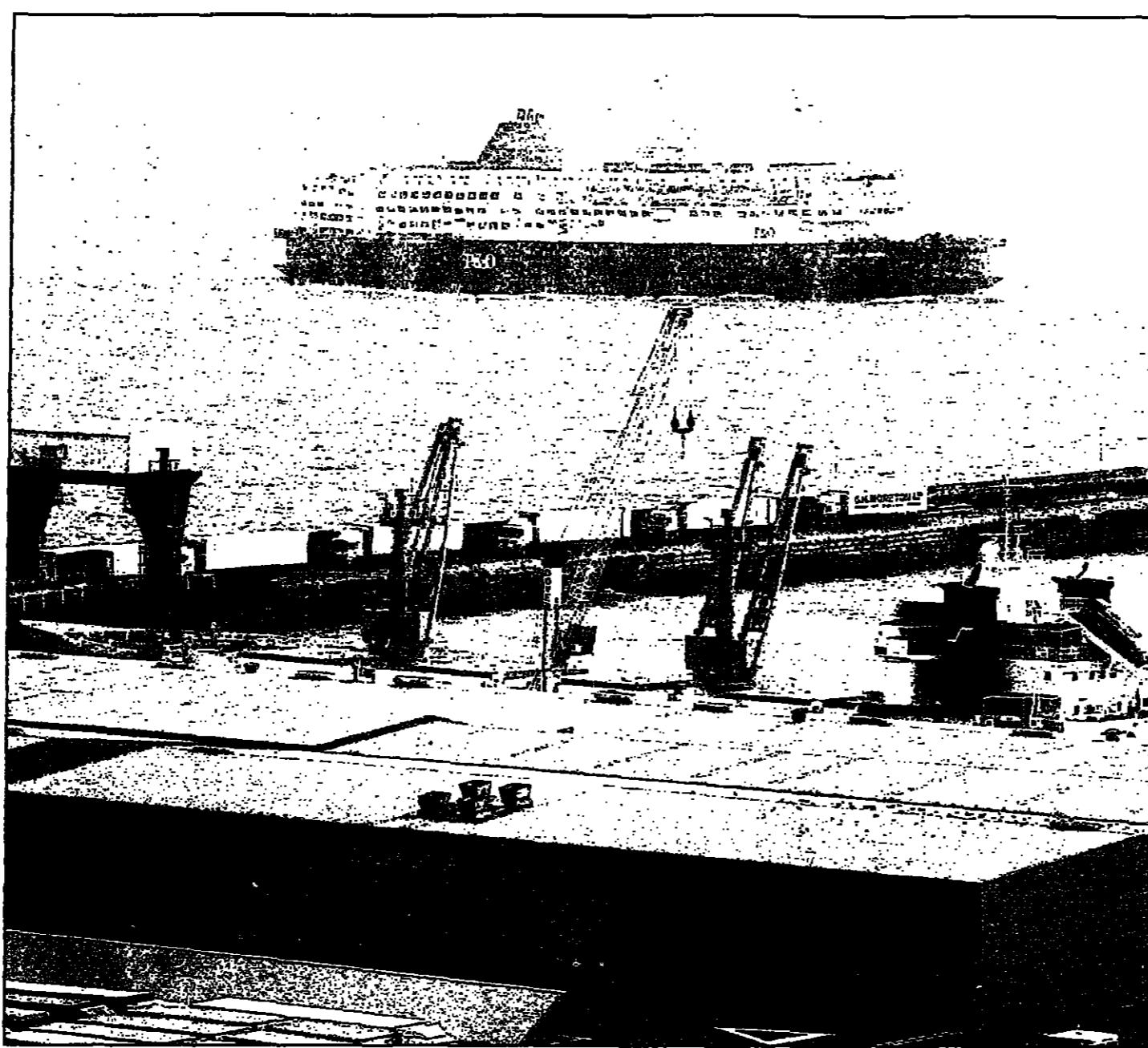
Criminals could end up as the unintended beneficiaries of the euro, it concerns being voiced in financial and legal circles are to be believed. With a single currency valid across 11 legal jurisdictions from this month, advisers in the financial services sector are urging banks and businesses to take seriously the possibility of a series of peaks in fraudulent activity.

Yet a counter-lobby of professional observers is quick to label the pessimists as scare-mongers. In their view, the central risk is not one of fraud against businesses. Instead, they believe the real issue is the potential suitability of the euro as a hard international currency for criminals operating at the money laundering and counterfeiting end of the black market. For police across the Continent, both prospects are a cause of very real concern.

For the three years from January 1999 to 2002, companies within the euro-zone will have the option of trading either in euros or in their own national currency. Gartner Group, a firm of American analysts, claims it is precisely this period of overlap that exposes companies to the risk of opportunist fraud. While businesses implement a radical overhaul of their IT systems and accounting procedures, discrepancies cropping up are likely to be treated as software errors or mistakes by staff, opening the way for both one-off insider fraud and more systematic theft.

But though the maths of euro conversion are more complex than other foreign currency exchanges, in terms of security risk it is little different from what the banks are already doing. Mark Tantam, the partner in charge of Deloitte & Touche's Fraud Management Service, argued that complex fraud techniques are being talked up at the expense of other hazards.

"The obvious fraud risks are where someone takes advantage of mistakes, and with year 2000 and the euro coming up, people are almost expecting a problem," says Tantam. "If the system goes down and data is wiped, they may blame a glitch in their software rather than suspect there is a deliberate attempt to cover up a fraud or remove the evidence, which makes the euro a perfect cover for the theft, sale or illegal use of company assets such as sensitive data."



The euro may make cross-border trade easier, but will it also help the criminals?

Tom Pilston

into the system undetected.

With its largest note set at 500 euros (over £300), the new currency's greatest asset to criminals could be its transportability. Money launderers require high-denomination notes for transporting large sums of dirty money in easily concealed physical quantities. Alan Davis, a solicitor specialising in European law and the euro with law

time, than the possibility of computer fraud during transition."

There is a limit to how much the authorities can do. The design of the new notes is being kept quiet to give forgers as little time as possible to come up with a high-quality counterfeit. At the same time, the Money Laundering Directive of 1991 is being extended to increase the number of suspicious transactions re-

The design of the new notes is being kept quiet to give forgers as little time as possible to come up with a high-quality counterfeit

firm Wilde Sapte, argues both this factor and the attractions of the euro as an international hard currency could put it ahead of the current market leader, the \$100 bill, as the black market currency of choice. "You only have to look at Russia, where the dollar circulates as a parallel currency," says Davis. "The euro will become increasingly used as a similar parallel currency around the world. Money laundering is much more serious, and will be much more of an issue in 10 years'

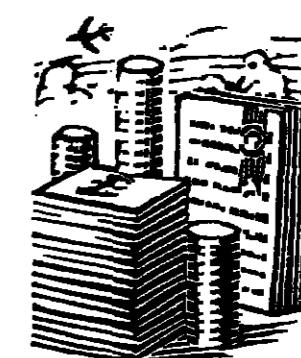
row, head of the City's fraud squad, says: "Resources have been drained away. The City and the Met are the only two forces with a substantial commitment to commercial crime. It is very difficult outside the capital to get adequate resources to do the investigation."

There are similar concerns at EU level. Despite the EU's efforts to improve communication between national intelligence bodies, Philip Martinus, a lawyer with the German law firm Beitten Burkhardt Mittl & Wegener, warns of the difficulties in putting an effective system in place: "Europe has not yet been vested with competence covering this area and they can collect data but they can't send their own policemen into the states and arrest somebody. So, of course, it will be difficult to pursue criminals on a European level."

The sensitivity of governments is likely to hinder any attempt to give a Europe-wide force real power, particularly as international organisations' agents are immune from prosecution by host states.

It seems the difference in pace between the harmonisation of legal jurisdictions and economic integration could assist criminals in making the most of the single currency.

Losing sleep over losses in the City



THE TRADER

that could make him happier would be one of our customers ringing up and asking about a euro deal, but we're six days in and it hasn't happened yet.

Luckily, we're a bit busier on the dollar side, otherwise I'd have nothing to distract me from the Great Watch Disaster. You'll remember - though not as painfully as I do - that I woke the day after our Christmas party with a man's watch on the bedside table. And since the last thing I recalled from the previous night was getting into a taxi with Jaap... well, you can see how I jumped to a ghoulish conclusion.

"He probably just wants us where he can keep an eye on us," said Laura. "Thinks if we're not here, that we'll be at home dealing futures on our account and losing millions."

Laura and I tried protesting to RORY. As we pointed out, we only ever deal in dollar-denominated products; so why should we concern ourselves with the euro? We might as well have saved our breath. As far as our chief honcho was concerned, it was all hands on deck, with no exceptions at all.

"He probably just wants us where he can keep an eye on us," said Laura. "Thinks if we're not here, that we'll be at home dealing futures on our account and losing millions."

As you do, of course, when there's nothing good on TV." I said sarcastically.

So while everyone else was at home, flat out on the sofa watching Bond films, we were at our desks crunching numbers. Luckily, the computer system had a thorough overhaul two months ago, so it's been pretty straightforward to modify it. Still, you never know what may be thrown up on the day, so we've been testing and testing until our eyes cross.

Fionlay is the only one of us who's really excited by the euro. As our resident rocket scientist, he gets to mess around in pretty much anything he wants, so a whole new currency is something to smile about. He has the credit department wrapped around his little finger, too, so they only say "no" to one of his deals once a month, just to show they can. The only thing

he probably just wants us where he can keep an eye on us," said Laura. "Thinks if we're not here, that we'll be at home dealing futures on our account and losing millions."

Bad enough sleeping with your boss at the best of times, but it's even worse if you happen to have a lovely boyfriend, too. I thought I'd never be able to look Olivier in the face again. We would split up and I'd be miserable and it would all be my fault. Plus, of course, I'd have to leave my job as well.

Unemployed and heartbroken: what a way that would be to start 1999.

Just as well, then, that Olivier rang me at work the same day to say he'd lost his watch somewhere and did I have it? Relief all round, until it turned out Jaap had also lost his watch. So whose watch was on my bedside table?

"That's what I want to know," Olivier yelled down the phone at me last night. "I've found my watch in my other coat. So who's been leaving his watch in your bedroom? And don't call me until you have an answer."

And he hung up.

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NATASHA BOYD WORKS FOR FIONA MACINTOSH, THE EDITOR OF 'ELLE'

I came to Britain from New Zealand in August 1997, as part of my big OE - or Overseas Experience, as we Kiwis call it. I applied for a four-year work visa, and once in London I discovered that most of my home town friends were already over here. One day I was watching the Smash Hits Awards on TV, and it occurred to me that one of the things I would love to do while over here was to go to a big awards ceremony myself.

My degree in organisational and industrial psychology meant that I was well placed to work in the personnel field, but it was by sheer good luck that I was offered a temping job with the *Smash Hits* publishers, Emap, who are also responsible for *Elle* magazine, my all-time favourite. I made a few key contacts within the company, and took the opportunity to send my CV around the building in the hope that I could remain with the company after my contract with personnel was over. It was a dream come true to be offered a temping job as PA to the editor of *Elle*. I was so excited that I immediately called all my friends, both in London and in Wellington.

I admit that I was nervous at the prospect of working with such glamorous colleagues, but I hadn't anticipated how down to earth and friendly they would be. I've had a fantastic run of bosses here - first there was Marie O'Riordan, the editor at the time, who guided me into my job, since I hadn't been a PA before. We got along so well that Marie asked if I would apply for the position on a permanent basis, which I don't think I would have dared do without her encouragement.

When Marie was promoted, I worked for Ian Birch, the editor-in-chief of Emap Elan, who stood in as acting editor for a while. While I thoroughly enjoyed working for Ian, I

found the prospect of the new permanent editor's arrival both exciting and a bit scary. But everyone assured me that Fiona and I would hit it off, and the moment she arrived I knew they were right. She's Australian, attractive, outgoing, and yet highly professional, and I don't have a bad word to say about her. People joke about our Antipodean solidarity, but I think that it's fantastic that she has made such a huge success of her career within such a competitive industry.

People assume that all Antipodeans have a "no worries"

'I still can't believe that I've come over here from little old Wellington, and got myself a job in one of the top fashion publications'

attitude towards everything. In my case they are wrong, because I do get stressed. Admittedly, when asked to do something I will almost always answer "it's not a problem", and usually it isn't. But I can get overloaded, since my role includes helping out the whole office so that they can focus their energy on the magazine itself, rather than the little, niggly things.

But first and foremost, I am Fiona's PA, which involves lots of running around helping to organise her day. I also do the "mark-up", costing each issue to work out how much has been spent in putting it together. Another of my roles is to vet

incoming calls to the editor's office. Many queries I can deal with myself, and I find it surprising how some people go straight to the editor regardless of the nature of the call.

Despite the deadlines, the office is very laid-back, and we all like to have a good laugh together. My colleagues often arrive in the morning with great stories from the celebrity parties they went to the night before, and although I don't get sent invitations personally, I sometimes get taken along too. At one party I went to I found Kate Moss and Liv Tyler standing next to me, and I also achieved my original ambition of going to a flashy ceremony when we held the *Elle Style Awards*. But the occasion exceeded my original wish, because, rather than just being part of the audience, I was asked to be up on the stage passing the awards over to the celebrity presenters. It was fantastic seeing my favourite supermodel, Helena Christensen, up close, and I even got to talk to Sophie Dahl. I just love the glamour of it all. Fiona enjoys partying, too, and it is common for her to bring out the champagne and the chocolate cake on someone's birthday so that the whole office can celebrate.

I still can't believe that I've come over here from little old Wellington and into one of the top fashion publications. My friends at home think I'm a star, and one friend's mum, who works in a newsagents', has been proudly showing her customers the picture of me in last month's *Elle* - even though all you can see is my back! I never intended getting involved with magazines, but now, I'd like to keep the media thing going, because I feel so at home with it. I am hoping that this situation is going to set me up career-wise, and that this position will lead to even greater things.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMSON



PA Natasha Boyd (left) with her boss, Fiona Macintosh, editor of 'Elle' magazine

Phil Meech

My new life with the gnome of PussyKatz

FORTUNATELY I'VE been able to give up the chat line, as the Christmas period had proved, while lucrative, to be depressing. It's not hard keeping callers on the line for hours at a time at this time of year; as drunk and lonely tends to equal logorrhoea, but you don't half feel guilty. So when Tracie rings and says she has a special job, and will pay me time-and-a-half for doing it, I say yes almost without thinking. I can't do this two-shift life any longer; if the bags under my eyes get any larger I'll be able to send myself off freight for a couple of weeks in the Caribbean.

"Sure," I say. "What's the job?"

Which is how I come to find myself at 2pm the next day.

ringing the doorbell of the flat above the PussyKatz club, I am to spend the next few weeks as personal assistant to Oscar Katz. You wouldn't tell it, but I'm knock-kneed with fear. For Oscar Katz's reputation as a sleaze is outstripped only by his notoriety for providing entertainment for even bigger sleazes.

The doorbell plays "Hey, Big Spender", and a couple of men walking past raise their eyebrows at me. I put on my most respectable face and stare them out. There's a "chunk" on the intercom. "Hello?" says a voice mated in the mud of the Thames estuary.

"Hello, Mr. Katz?" "Yes?"

"I'm your new PA."

"Oh, right," he bellows. "Push

the door. Top floor. Penthouse. Har har. I'll just get myself decent."

The lock clicks back, and I enter a corridor vaguely reminiscent of a school stairwell, lined with that granite-filled concrete designed not to feel the knocks of passing trolleys. The Katz penthouse, it seems, is accessed via the service lift. When I get out at the top, I find a corridor that has been miraculously transformed into a housetoilets. Walls and ceiling are lined with a feisty purple velvet and the floor with a carpet of singular horridness: purple again, with a thin white check and polka dots at the intersections. I stare, gape-mouthed, until a voice behind me

says: "It was left over when we did the club out. Nice, innit?" I turn around. Leaning in the doorway is a wizened gnome with a foot-long haircut and straw highlights. He is wearing - I gulp - black satin pyjamas and a black satin wrap.

"Oscar Katz, darlin'," he says. "Hi, Mr Katz."

"Call me Oscar."

We shake hands, and he stares deep, deep into my eyes. Which must be quite hard work, as he doesn't come above my chin. "Come in," he says, and I step into the spider's parlour. Mirrors everywhere. White leather settee, fake-fur polar-bear rug, black-and-chrome bar, complete with stools, dividing the room in half.

Oscar waves a hand over his domain. "Welcome," he says. "to my humble abode. Take a pew. Want a coffee? I haven't had no break yet myself. Up 'til five I was."

Where the fireplace should be,

there's a marble surround, and

over it, a huge oil painting, crudely executed, of two women with white beehive wigs, naked but for gloves and stockings, heads thrown back in gestures of ecstasy. "My first and second wives," says Oscar. "They'd kill me if they knew I'd got them doing that together." He plumps down in a white leather armchair, jiggles a foot.

"Now," he says, "I hope you've got stamina, girl."

"Reasonable, I think."

"Good." He gets out a six-inch ivory cigarette holder and a gold-plated lighter in the shape of a naked female torso, which he caresses with a thumb. "My last assistant couldn't take the pace. Shagged out, she was." He collapses in a heap of hilarity at his double entendre. "Scuse my French." I laugh politely back.

The phone rings. You can tell it's ringing because not only does it trill, it lights up, neon pink and blue, on the glass coffee table in front of him. He stops, picks it up, goes "Hello, darlin'. No, I can't talk now. No, course I want to see you, I'm just busy is all. Naar look, Dolores, if you're going to be like that, we'd better call it a day. I told you I can't bear to be tied down." Then he hangs up. Rolls his eyes. "Women," he says. "Can't live wiv 'em, can't pay 'em off."

"So tell me." He leans forward, flashes a set of perfectly capped teeth in my direction. "Aye yer ever been in one of my clubs?"

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If you're determined to look for a new job after the festivities then a visit to The London Career Day on January 13th is your answer. You'll find a host of recruitment experts on hand who can advise you, give you a genuine appraisal of your skills as well as offer some of the best secretarial jobs in London. The London Career Day offers you the opportunity to discuss your job requirements with those who have the knowledge and the contacts to get you a better job for 1999. The London Career Day • Wednesday, January 13th 1999
The New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2 Open 9am - 7pm • Refreshments Available • Admission Free

SEATTLE COFFEE COMPANY

At Starbucks & Seattle Coffee Company we are expanding our administrative support team and are seeking the following key individuals to work in our offices at Parsons Green, south-west London.

£18-22k plus benefits

We require a mature, experienced individual to organise and manage all aspects of our office function. Reporting to the office manager, you will be flexible, competent and able to keep a cool head in our dynamic and chaotic world.

You will be a good organiser who is able to develop and implement new systems. Good communication and customer service skills are also key requirements, as is experience of Word and Excel.

£12-16k plus benefits

We also require enthusiastic and capable team members to provide secretarial/admin support in all departments. Opportunities exist in Operations, Human Resources, Finance, Marketing and Food Development. You must have office experience and good working knowledge of Word and Excel.

If you feel you meet our criteria and would like to become part of our team, please send your CV to:

H.R. Department, Starbucks & Seattle Coffee Company, 11 Heathcote Road, London SW6 4JL. Closing date for all applications is 15th January 1999.

Starbucks is an equal opportunities employer committed to hiring a diverse workforce.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Prestigious Cheesecake based Interior Designer, David Collins, requires a first class PA for immediate start. Competitive salary offered for efficient person with relevant experience. Well presented and confident with an excellent telephone manner. Applicants must work well under pressure in a varied environment combining PA skills with some reception duties. W4W and Excel essential. Please send fax CV with salary requirements to:

Iain Watson @ David Collins
6/7 Chelsea Wharf, Lots Road,
London SW10 0QJ
Fax: 0171 352 7284
Email: iain@davidcollins.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

required for a busy firm of corporate finance advisers, near Euston.
We seek an enthusiastic young person, with initiative, to join our team of 23 staff to become involved in a varied role assisting our support team with filing, binding, post, photocopying and general office duties. £12-14,000 p.a.
After qualifying period, season ticket loan available. Please write, enclosing your CV, to Annie Bremer at Livingstone Guarantee, Acre House, 11-15 William Road, London NW1 3ER. Fax 0171 383 3389. Strictly no agencies.

TEAM SECRETARY

£16-18k plus BENEFITS
Efficient PA required for busy Software Co. Varied role with lots of responsibility. Must be well spoken, good Windows skills and min three years experience.

Excellent Prospects

Tel: 0171 431 6222

Fax: 0171 431 2226

Agency

Agency</p

NEW FILMS

THE ACID HOUSE (18)

Director: Paul McGuigan
Starring: Stephen McCole, Kevin McKidd, Ewen Bremner
A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh, *The Acid House* plays out in the down-and-dirty landscape of some of Edinburgh's less salubrious areas and darts with brio between a range of moods and tones. Story number one, "The Granton Star Cause", is a playful riff on Kafka's *Metamorphosis* as layabout wastrel Bob (McCole) gets conjured into a fly by the vengeful, boozing God (Maurice Roëves) whom he meets down the pub.

Story two, "A Soft Touch", comes on as a kind of social-realist Special Brew opera, as its affable, emasculated hero (the brilliant Kevin McKidd) finds himself cheated on by his missus and menaced by the tattooed thug who lives upstairs. Story three, "The Acid House", is both the most ambitious and the least coherent, an indiscriminate what-if scenario which has Ewen Bremner's raw kid switching places with a newborn bairn. In it, the revelations of an acid-trip are cross-cut to the trauma of birth, yet a clever conceit stays unfulfilled, buried under a ton of showy hallucinogenics. Overall, though, debut director Paul McGuigan (who trained as a stills photographer) turns *The Acid House* into a bit of a triumph; adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales and rustling up a film that's less poised and populist than *Trainspotting*, but more earthy, edgy and intense, too. A cracker, all told.

West End: *Gate Notting Hill*, Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

SITCOM (18)

Director: François Ozon
Starring: Evelyne Dandy, François Marthouret, Marina de Van
Someone ought to introduce François Ozon to a good editor. The debuting French film-maker is

clearly a man of talent, but in *Sitcom* he lets his ideas maraud madly off the leash. This scattergun satire on middle-class mores takes abundant pleasure in dismantling standard nuclear family (*mère, père, fils et fille*) — setting a rat loose in the home and injecting an implicitly queer and subversive vein to the increasingly fraught shenanigans. The result is sharp, funny and savage one moment, over-heated and indulgent the next, and arrives heavily touched by the influence of Luis Buñuel and John Waters. Ozon's still, formal framing strikes a nice balance with the craziness contained inside.

West End: *Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Virgin Chelsea*

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)

Director: Jonathan Frakes
Starring: Patrick Stewart
A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, *Insurrection* hits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags, ribbed and bowed with reliably cheesy art-design and effects work, and wrapped up in rather more cornball romance than we're used to.

The yarn is nominally about Patrick Stewart's do-gooding captain tangling with villainous F Murray Abraham, who has hatched a scheme to take over an Eden-like planet of perpetual youth. The trouble is that while *Star Trek* phenomenon has become less a story now than a series of self-reflective gestures, *Insurrection* takes no real risks with the format: it simply navel-gazes for a while, gives floorspace to the regulars and idles its way along to the climactic explosion.

West End: *ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: *ABC Tottenham Court Road, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Virgin Fulham Road*

THE APPLE (S1B) (PG)

Seventeen-year-old Samira Makhmalbaff's precocious début stages a true-life recreation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. A luminous and extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: *Metro, Renoir*

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. West End: *Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero*

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. West End: *Curzon Mayfair*

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: *ABC Swiss Centre*

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of another female figurehead — this time it's Queen Elizabeth I — struggling to gain purchase in a male world. West End: *ABC Pantom Street, Curzon Soho, Curzon Cinema, Odeon Mezzanine, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road*

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, to probe a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: *ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

RONIN (15)

Rather than adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. Thrill-an-hour stuff. West End: *Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Fulham Road*

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops at full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas' authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics justifies the purchase amid dithering action set-pieces. West End: *Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road*

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hit-and-miss affair. West End: *Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in the latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly (previous repulsive but shamefully funny crimes against humanity: *Dumb and Dumber* and *Kingpin*). The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind which drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an unexceptionally bland cake. West End: *ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Mezzanine*

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: *ABC Pantom Street, Curzon Soho, Virgin Haymarket*

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for junk-headed swearing which sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate performers. West End: *UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: *Empire Leicester Square, Odeon*

Along comes Christmas and out comes *What Dreams May Come*. Robin Williams perfec-

tions a lop-sided simper as the dead chaplie who lights out to a cod-impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide bride. West End:

ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

PHOENIX CINEMA

(0181-444 6789) ♦ East Finchley

Elizabeth 6.15pm Left Luggage

4.45pm, 4pm Out of Sight

8.35pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) ♦ Notting Hill

Gate The Acid House 1.15pm,

3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Star Trek:

Insurrection 11pm, 1.30pm,

4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-907 0718) ♦ Ravenscourt

Park/Hammersmith Enemy of

The State 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm

The Prince of Egypt 12noon,

2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm Rush

Hour 8.40pm Star Trek:

Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm,

4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

PLAZA

(0990-888990) ♦ Piccadilly

Circus The Acid House 12.30pm,

2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Baby

Pig in the City 1.15pm, 3pm

5.30pm, 7pm, 9pm Saving

Private Ryan 7.50pm The

Truman Show 3.35pm, 8.40pm

RENOIR

(0171-837 3647) ♦ Charing

Cross Sex/Life in LA 5pm, 7pm,

9pm

RENT

(0171-234 1506) ♦ Piccadilly

Circus/Celeste Square The

Apple (Sib) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm,

9pm Boys 4.15pm, 8.45pm

Fire 2pm, 6.30pm

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)

Erick Zon's fine debut draws its strength from

the personalities of Isa (Elodie Bouchez) and

Maria (Natacha Regnier), whose close friendship

comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

ANTZ (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar

cast and starring Woody Allen as a worker ant

who becomes an opponent of the colony's

totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film

— humour, indignation, emotional sympathy —

driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance

as a recovering alcoholic.

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

THE TRUMAN SHOW (15)

Peter Weir's ingenious and unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie — in the case of Jim Carrey's Truman Burbank, it is breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh knocks spot off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez (right) the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

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driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

LOVE UPON THE THRONE

Comedy Theatre
The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent. Hilarious and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

MARTIN GUERRE West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

It's third time lucky for this much-rewritten *Boubil/Schonberg* musical. In Connell Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb

MR PUNTILLA AND HIS MAN MATTI

Albery Theatre
A well-deserved transfer for this Almeida hit (right). Comedy duet The Right Size are inspired casting for Brecht's witty fable about a split-personality landowner. To 9 Jan

ANGELA CARTER CINDERELLA

Lyric, Hammersmith
This feast of inspired seasonal silliness and visual magic by Angela Carter has lashings of drag and double entendres, plus the best mice to be found anywhere on a West End stage. To 9 Jan

A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY

Swan Theatre, Stratford
Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel, adapts Turgenev's proto-Chekhovian comedy. To 30 Feb

ANTHONY QUINN

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

CHARLOTTE SALOMON

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 8009) ♦ Narrow in the Hill Antz 5.50pm, 7.50pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.05pm, 3.30pm Enemy of the State 9.20am, 12.10pm, 12.55pm, 3pm, 3.50pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 9pm, 9.25pm, The Mask of Zorro 11.25am, 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, The Prince of Egypt 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 9.15pm Rush Hour 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.35pm, 10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Holloway Road/Archway Antz 12.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 2pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 9.35pm, 10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.05pm

GILFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Gants Hill Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm, Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm, The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8pm, 9.25pm, The Mask of Zorro 2.05pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Parent Trap 12.25pm, 3.05pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm, 9.15pm Rush Hour 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.40pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

KILBURN
THE TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-323 1000) ♦ Kilburn Enemy of the State 6.20pm, 8.55pm

KINGSTON UPON THAMES
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR/TV Kingston Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.05pm The Parent Trap 2.25pm, The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Highgate Enemy of the State 2.50pm, 4.45pm, 6.25pm The Mask of Zorro 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11.40am, 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

PICKSHAW
Premier (0181-235 3006) BR/TV Peckham Rye Antz 1.50pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm Enemy of the State 12.35pm, 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm, 9.35pm (TV) The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8pm, The Mighty 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 11.45am, 2.10pm The Prince of Egypt 2.35pm Rush Hour 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm What Dreams May Come 5.50pm, 8.20pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR/TV Purley Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm Enemy of the State 4.45pm, 6pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.55pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 5.50pm, 8.20pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-9020401) ♦ Purley Bridge, BR/Purley Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm Enemy of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 5.45pm, 8.25pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/TV Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm Out of Sight 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.50pm The Prince of Egypt 12.20pm, 3pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 5.40pm, 8.20pm

ODEON STUDIOS (08705 050007) BR/TV Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm Out of Sight 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.50pm The Prince of Egypt 12.20pm, 3pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm What Dreams May Come 5.40pm, 8.20pm

RIMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR/TV Rimford Babe: Pig in the City 12.30pm Enemy of the State 5.20pm, 8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.40pm The Prince of Egypt 12.55pm, 3.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm What Dreams May Come 5.45pm, 8.20pm

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RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 0171-424 0100 When the Cat's Away [15] 6.45pm & L'apartement 8.40pm

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BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) My Name is Joe [15] 4.15pm, 9.15pm Henry Fool [18] 6.30pm

BRIGHTON
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) On Commot La Chanson [PG] 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Land Girls [12] 6pm Modulations [NC] 8.30pm

CAMBRIDGE
CINEMA (01223-504444) My Name is Joe [15] 12.30pm, 7.50pm The Bel [18] 3pm 9.20pm The Truman Show [PG] 5.10pm

CARDIFF
CHARTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Year of the Horse [15] 2.30pm, 8pm Pépé le Moko [PG] 3pm, 7pm

CHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786550) Kundun [12] 3.15pm The Goddess [15] 6.15pm Salt Crazy [15] 9pm

CINEMA (01473-215544) Elizabeth [15] 6pm, 8.30pm La Vie Révée des Anges [18] 6pm, 8.15pm

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CINEMA (01473-215544) Elizabeth [15] 6pm, 8.30pm La Vie Révée des Anges [18] 6pm, 8.15pm

CARDIFF
CINEMA (01223-504444) My Name is Joe [15] 12.30pm, 7.50pm The Bel [18] 3pm 9.20pm The Truman Show [PG] 5.10pm

CARDIFF
CHARTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Year of the Horse [15] 2.30pm, 8pm Pépé le Moko [PG] 3pm, 7pm

CHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786550) Kundun [12] 3.15pm The Goddess [15] 6.15pm Salt Crazy [15] 9pm

CINEMA (01473-215544) Elizabeth [15] 6pm, 8.30pm La Vie Révée des Anges [18] 6pm, 8.15pm

CARDIFF
CINEMA (01223-504444) My Name is Joe [15

WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00
Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris
Moyles. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00
Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session.
10.00 Movie Update with
Mark Kermode. 10.10 John Peel.
12.00 Gilles Peterson. 2.00 Clive
Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(86-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah
Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00
Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart.
5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Nick
Barraclough. 8.00 Mike Harding.
9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show.
10.00 Route 66 Revisited.
10.30 Richard Allison. 12.00
Kathrina Lenckian. 3.00 - 4.00
Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Poulenc.

1.00 The Radio 3 Luncheon Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Epiphany Carol Service.
5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Purcell's one-act opera 'Dido and Aeneas' is one of the best known operas of the Baroque, yet it is only one of hundreds of short musical stage works from this time.

Recorded at last year's Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music, this concert pairs Purcell's enduring masterpiece with 'Acteon', Marc-Antoine Charpentier's superb depiction of one of Ovid's most heart-rending metamorphoses.

Katerina Karneus, mezzo (Dido), Sophie Daneman, soprano (Belinda), St James's Baroque Singers and Players/Ivor Bolton. See Pick of the Day.

9.45 Postscript. Five specially commissioned dramatic monologues that combine fiction and a news story. 3: 'Thank You for My Baby' by Alison Joseph. (R)

9.35 Stravinsky Conducts

Stravinsky, Jeu de cartes Cleve-

land Orchestra.

PICK OF THE DAY

IN TODAY'S The Reclaimers (11am R4) Peter Benchley, the writer of *Jaws*, immerses himself in the murky world of underwater salvage operations, which is fast expanding thanks to new, far-reaching technology. To many archaeologists, marine salvage (right) is just plain old-fashioned looting, but Benchley laconically trawls the States for the opinion of those for whom

it is a respectable profession, and a vital means of financing historical research. Tonight's Performance on 3 (7.30pm R3) aims to show us all that there's much more to Baroque than Purcell's one-act opera *Dido and Aeneas*; that work is paired with Marc-Antoine Charpentier's Ovid-based *Acteon*. Case proved.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



10.00 Ensemble. Mendelssohn, Schumann and Chopin were three of the leading musical lights of the mid-19th century. Born within a few months of each other, they all found success as composer-pianists, though in radically different ways. Penny Gore traces their distinct but overlapping careers and introduces some of their piano and chamber works, including Schumann: Piano Trio No 2 in F, Op 20, Vanya Milanova (violin), Paul Watkins (cello), Caroline Palmer (piano).

10.45 Night Waves. 'Man is more sick, uncertain, changeable, indeterminate than any other animal, there is no doubt of that - he is the sick animal.' Nietzsche's observation of 1887 stands true today when there may be fewer diseases around but always new illnesses - from chronic fatigue syndrome to post-traumatic stress disorder. Patrick Wright considers the changing nature of illness in the modern age as observed in the latest book by the award-winning American writer David B Morris. And Anthony Sher pulls off a tricky double for the RSC in their new production of 'A Winter's Tale'.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week:

Saint-Saëns (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4

(92.4-94.8MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS: Midweek.

9.45 Serial: The Vanished World.

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. See Pick of the Day.

11.30 Choice Grentell.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Wildbrain.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.45 Afternoon Play: A Love Song to the Buses.

3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time.

3.30 The Melting Pot.

3.45 This Scupted Isle.

4.00 NEWS: Case Notes Special.

4.30 Thinking Allowed - the Large Map.

5.00 PM.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Like They've Never Been Gone. (R)

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.15 Front Row: Francine Stock chairs the arts programme.

7.45 Under One Roof. The last of three dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories, with Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White (3/5).

8.00 NEWS: Them and Us. Diana Madill presents the second in a series of lively debates about the major issues of the day. Proposition: 'The asylum system is too great a burden on the host country'. From Haringey Civic Centre, North London.

8.45 Letters of Complaint. Who says the British do not complain? Tony Hawks surveys this ancient art form.

9.45 - 6.00 Farming Today.

grammes, exploring some of the many antisocial activities of wildlife around the globe. Mark Cardew reveals more tales of animal squatters and cannibalistic lodgers.

9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversation.

10.00 The World Tonight. With Justin Webb.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana. By Emile Zola, read by Juliet Stevenson (3/5).

11.00 Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of Misery. Sean Lock, winner of the Time Out Comedy Award, presents a downbeat comedy from his tower block flat. With Kevin Eldon and Hattie Hayridge.

11.15 For One Horrible Moment.

11.30 Cheese Shop Presents.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW

(198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Service. 12.00 -

12.04 News; Shipping Forecast.

5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

RADIO 5 LIVE

(639, 909kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Coverage of all the night's action with commentary, reports and goal news. Plus the National Lottery Draw.

10.00 Littlejohn. Football phone-in with Richard Littlejohn: 0500 909593.

11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM

(100.1-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto: d'Indy: Symphonie sur un chant montagnard français. Catherine Collard (piano). French Radio PO/Marek Janowski. 3.00 Jamie Crichton. 6.30 Newsnight.

7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven.

9.00 Evening Concert: Party: Overture to an Unwritten Tragedy. English Northern Philharmonia/David Lloyd-Jones. Finzi: Cello Concerto. Raphael Wallfisch: Royal Liverpool PO/Veronica Handley. Butterworth: The Banks of Green Willow. English SO/William Boughton. Boughton: Symphony No 3. RPO/Vernon Handley. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.0-6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO

(125, 197-220MHz MW 105.8MHz FM)

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest.

10.00 Jane Grae Grace. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

(198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Omnibus.

2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Meridian (Books). 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Top Brain. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (400-700).

TALK RADIO

6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Mean.

9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Loraine Kelly. 2.00 Nancy Roberts.

4.00 Peter Deseley. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whale.

12.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

MONDAY

1.00 The Comedy Alternative: May to December (1998). 2.45 The Comedy Alternative: It Ain't Half Hot Mum (10/07/98). 2.50 Yes, Minister (8/07/98).

9.00 One Foot in the Grave (4/07/98).

9.40 New to Gold: Jonathan Creek (6/07/98).

11.30 French and Saunders (2/07/98).

12.30 French and Saunders (1/07/98).

1.30 French and Saunders (2/07/98).

2.30 French and Saunders (3/07/98).

3.30 French and Saunders (4/07/98).

4.30 French and Saunders (5/07/98).

5.30 French and Saunders (6/07/98).

6.30 French and Saunders (7/07/98).

7.30 French and Saunders (8/07/98).

8.30 French and Saunders (9/07/98).

9.30 French and Saunders (10/07/98).

10.30 French and Saunders (11/07/98).

11.30 French and Saunders (12/07/98).

12.30 French and Saunders (13/07/98).

1.30 French and Saunders (14/07/98).

2.30 French and Saunders (15/07/98).

3.30 French and Saunders (16/07/98).

4.30 French and Saunders (17/07/98).

5.30 French and Saunders (18/07/98).

6.30 French and Saunders (19/07/98).

7.30 French and Saunders (20/07/98).

8.30 French and Saunders (21/07/98).

9.30 French and Saunders (22/07/98).

10.30 French and Saunders (23/07/98).

11.30 French and Saunders (24/07/98).

12.30 French and Saunders (25/07/98).

1.30 French and Saunders (26/07/98).

2.30 French and Saunders (27/07/98).

3.30 French and Saunders (28/07/98).

4.30 French and Saunders (29/07/98).

5.30 French and Saunders (30/07/98).

